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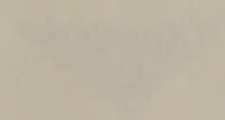
Book of the History of the Church

CENTENNIAL

OF

St. Matthew's Church

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



1826 - 1926

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Conshohocken Historical Society

**CENTENNIAL
OF
St. Matthew's Church
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HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN FRANCIS O'HARA, C.S.C., D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



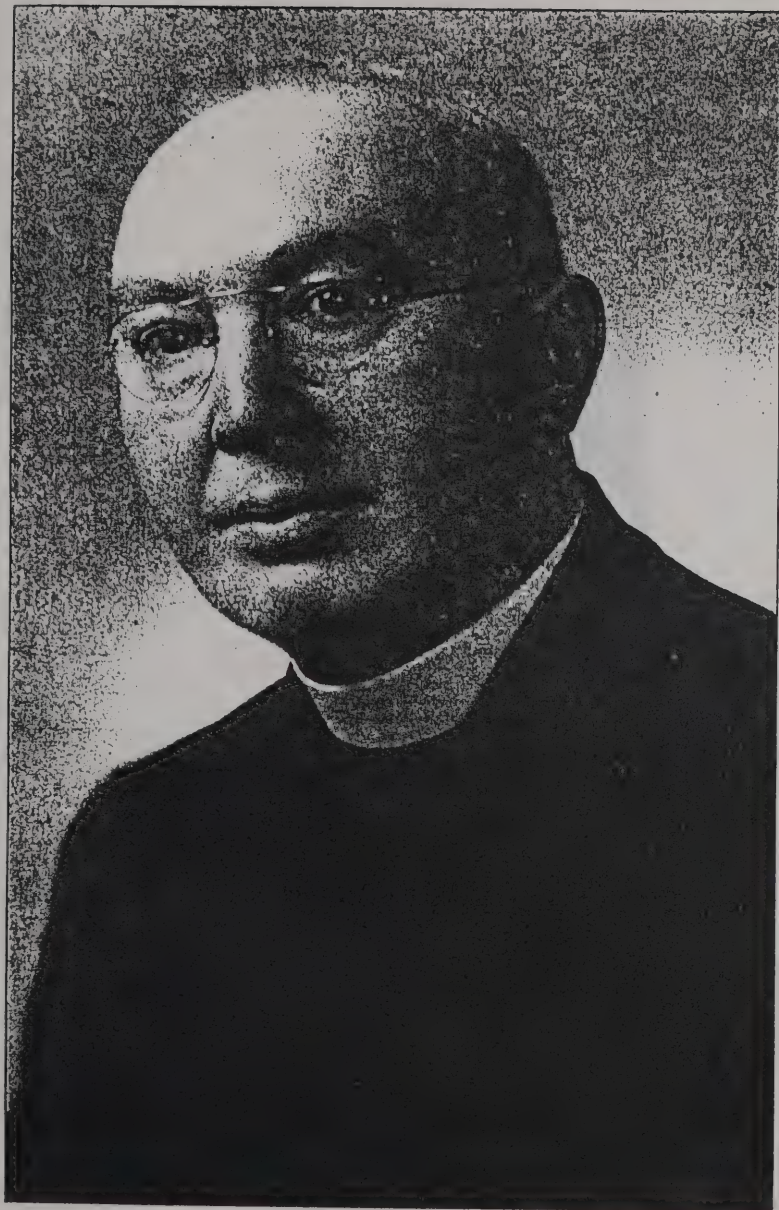
MOST REVEREND J. CARROLL McCORMICK, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our new Archbishop of Philadelphia, the Most
Reverend John J. O'Connor, D.D., D.C., whose vision and leadership have been the
philosophy of our religious leaders. He has inspired and initiated every ap-
proach and achievement of our people with his faith and vision.



MOST REVEREND JOSEPH McSHEA, D.D.
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



REV. GEORGE L. MURPHY, J.C.D.

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our new Archbishop of Philadelphia, the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., D.D. There is no need to point out the accomplishments of our Spiritual Leader. He has accepted and fulfilled every appointment and assignment given him with the zeal and sincerity of one who depends upon God for every move he makes. His honest humility is the reason for the magnetism of his personality. Notre Dame, Military Ordinariate, Bishop of Buffalo and now, Archbishop of Philadelphia, were never burdens to him for his love of God and man carried him from one important position to another. He has never referred to any one of them as being difficult to bear for he looked upon them as labors of love. His sermon at the installation on January 10th, 1952 bears this out—

"By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." St. John xiii, 35.

In the loving disposition of the Heavenly Father for the happiness of mankind, we have both reason and revelation to point out the end for which we are created and the means to attain that end. For both we have the aid of Divine Grace, which enlightens the mind and strengthens the will to fulfill our duties.

You and I are under this Law. God has made you and He has made me to "know Him and love Him and serve Him in this life, that we may be happy with Him in eternity."

We must love Him for Himself, and we must love and serve Him in the person of our neighbor, as well as in direct love and service. The Law of Love ennobles those who practice it. All that is beautiful in human nature, all that is good, all that is true, proceeds from it. The mother's sacrifice for her children, the tender nursing care that alleviates the suffering of the infirm, the guardianship over the widow and the orphan, the fidelity of the soldier who freezes to death in a Korean fox-hole, all the myriad manifestations of love of neighbor that the world has known from the beginning of time are in some degree a reflection of God's love for us; when supernaturalized, with the aid of Divine Grace, they carry out God's plan for us and lend nobility to human nature."

We of St. Matthew's are happy to observe the operation of the power of the Holy Ghost whose inspiration directed the appointment of so personable and sincere a servant for God and man to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We do wish him many years and good health to carry out his desires. There is no need to wish him happiness for he is completely happy in his work for God.

Rev. John P. Kiniry



REV. JOHN P. KINIRY
Assistant Rector

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank our Advertisers, Benefactors, Friends, Patrons and Sponsors, for their support of this history of St. Matthew's Parish.

We appreciate the kind assistance of Michael J. Kehoe in the preparation of the manuscript.

All have been kind in their expression of good wishes upon the completion of one hundred years dedicated to the service of God. The members of St. Matthew's over this century are to be commended and congratulated for accomplishing so much in their community. The buildings which represent sacrifice through generosity inspired by love of God are lasting monuments to their memory. They fulfill the purpose for which the Church was founded by Jesus Christ that "they all may be one as Thou Father in Me and I in Thee that they all may be one in us that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me."

Rev. John P. Kiniry



REV. JOSEPH T. SCHUSTER
Assistant Rector

HISTORY OF PARISH

The history of any parish is identified and entwined with the early settlement of the section of which it is a part. Conshohocken, the "Pleasant Valley" and "Edge of the Hills" of the Indians, was incorporated as a Borough in 1850. St. Matthew's Parish was established in 1851. Previously this section was known as Matson's Ford. Tradition has it that this section of the Schuylkill was a fishing grounds for the Indians. Previous to the influx of industry the shad of the Delaware River are said to have spawned in the Schuylkill, coming here from the Delaware.

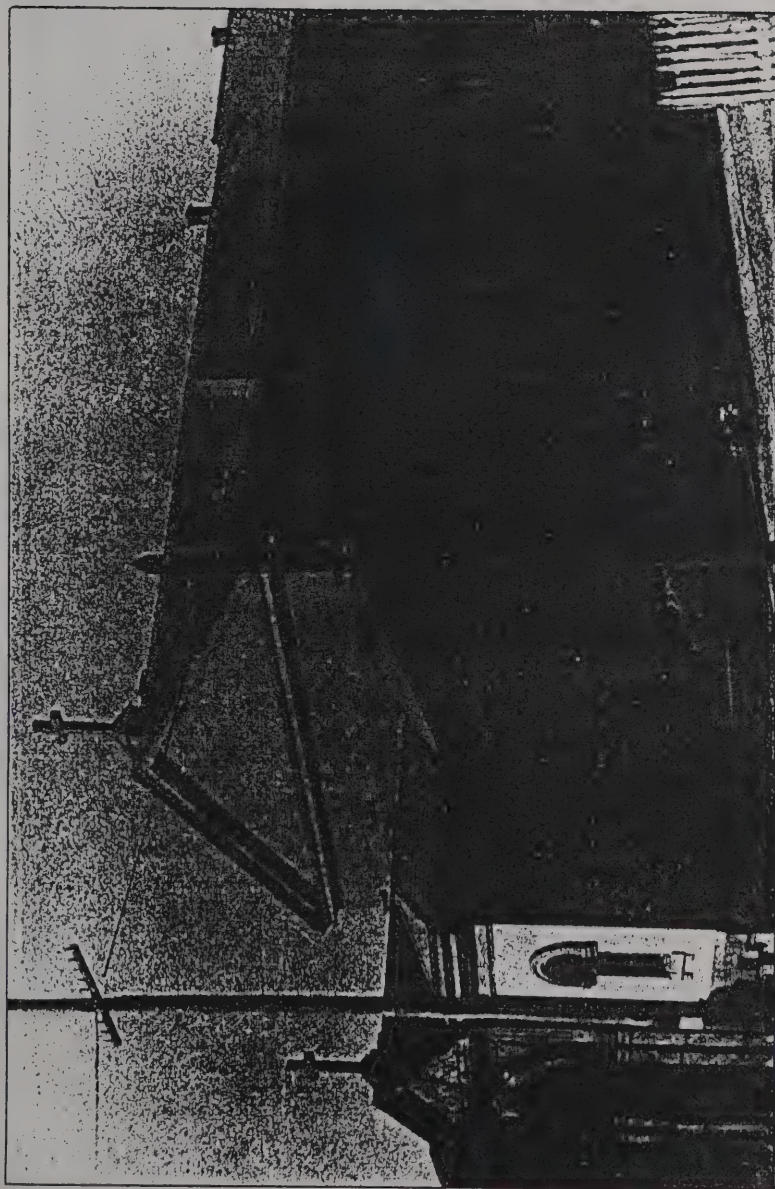
Pre-Revolutionary War days found settlers in this area. During the war, Marquis Lafayette retreated from the Battle of Germantown by way of what is now Fayette Street and Matson's Ford, taking up a position on the west side of the river.

The establishment of a new parish is the beginning of another chapter in the annals of the Catholic Church. The length of that chapter depends upon the locality, the number of persons dwelling there and the service rendered there. Every Baptism is a new verse in the chapter, for it marks the beginning of a new spiritual life, the course of another soul dedicated to the honor and glory of God, according to the teaching of His Divine Son, Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Apostles were commissioned by Christ Himself before he quitted this earth, when He said: "Going therefore, teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world."

Rev. Patrick A. Nugent carried out this commission as Pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Norristown, Pa. This parish was founded by Father Charles I. J. H. Carter and the church was located on Washington Street, above Cherry. The boundaries of St. Patrick's included this area of Conshohocken. The people of that time, who resided in this section, are known to have walked from Conshohocken to Norristown to fulfill the obligation of attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays and Holydays of obligation. Some carried food with them that they might remain until the afternoon and attend Vespers. Others in the Miquon section would cross the Schuylkill in row boats and walk from the west bank of the river to St. Thomas' in Villanova, which had been founded in 1848. More would go down the Schuylkill to Manayunk and participate in the Holy Sacrifice at St. John's, which was founded in 1831.

Father Nugent recognized the need of a church in this area. The deep faith that he found in the people, and their faithful practice of it convinced him of the need. A steady increase in the numbers and enthusiasm of both Irish and German settlers, emigrants, some voluntary, some political exiles, many driven here by the famine in Ireland, led to Conshohocken's being



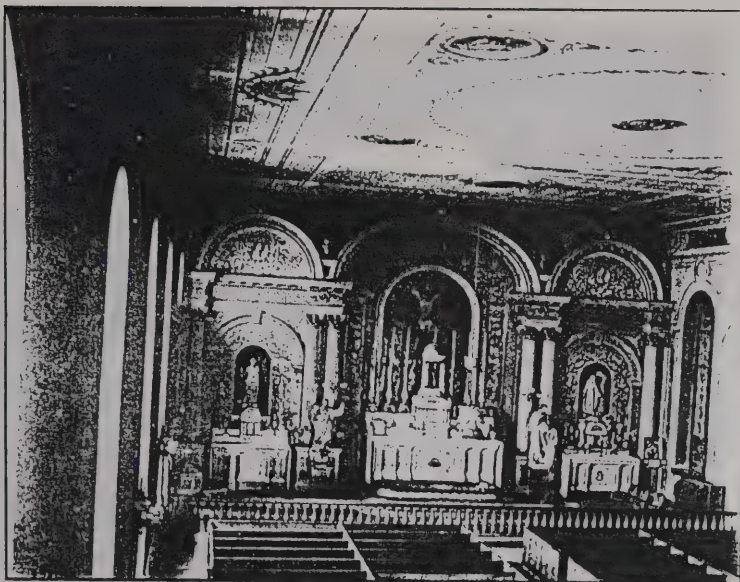
ST. MATTHEW'S AT HECTOR AND HARRY STREETS



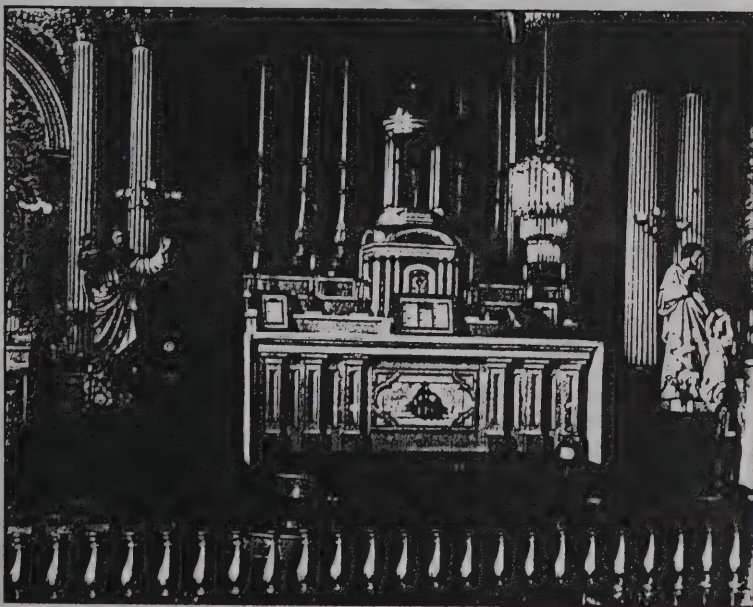
REV. PATRICK A. NUGENT

designated a parish, with St. Matthew as patron saint, and REV. PATRICK A. NUGENT, Pastor, in the year 1851. Through his efforts and under his direction the original church property at the southwest corner of Hector and Harry Streets was purchased or donated and a house of God begun. There is no indication of the time when the first spade of earth was dug. Most important is that it was dug, and many after it, by the parishioners anxious to have a church closer to their homes. It must be remembered that one hundred years ago there was very little mechanical equipment for digging or for laying foundations. Hands were the devices powered by the bone and sinew of man.

Father Nugent was "a scholar and a saintly priest," and before the work on the church had progressed very far, he was transferred to St. John the Baptist Church in Manayunk, as Pastor. Very shortly thereafter he arose to the position of Vicar General of the Diocese. His health gradually failed and he obtained permission to return to his native Ireland. He later went



INTERIOR OF FIRST CHURCH



MAIN ALTAR OF ORIGINAL CHURCH



HOLY THURSDAY EXPOSITION

to France to become Chaplain of a community of religious and he died there shortly afterward.

REV. JAMES C. McGUINNESS became Pastor of St. Matthew's in February 1852 and continued his pastoral duties until his death from a heart ailment, September 21st, 1863. These were the days when the education and training of children devolved on the priest. The Catholic Herald and Visitor of Sept. 30, 1863, reads in part: "Before he became so weakened as to be unfitted for active duties, he was busily engaged in preparing the children for Confirmation, and on the last Friday and Saturday of his life, still anxious to serve the Master to whom he had consecrated himself, he called them all around his bedside, and taught them carefully the Catechism . . . On Monday morning, fortified by the August Sacrament, he went into eternity to render to the great Judge an account of his earthly stewardship. The news fell sadly on the hearts of the people, for his gentle mien and unobtrusive piety had endeared him to all."

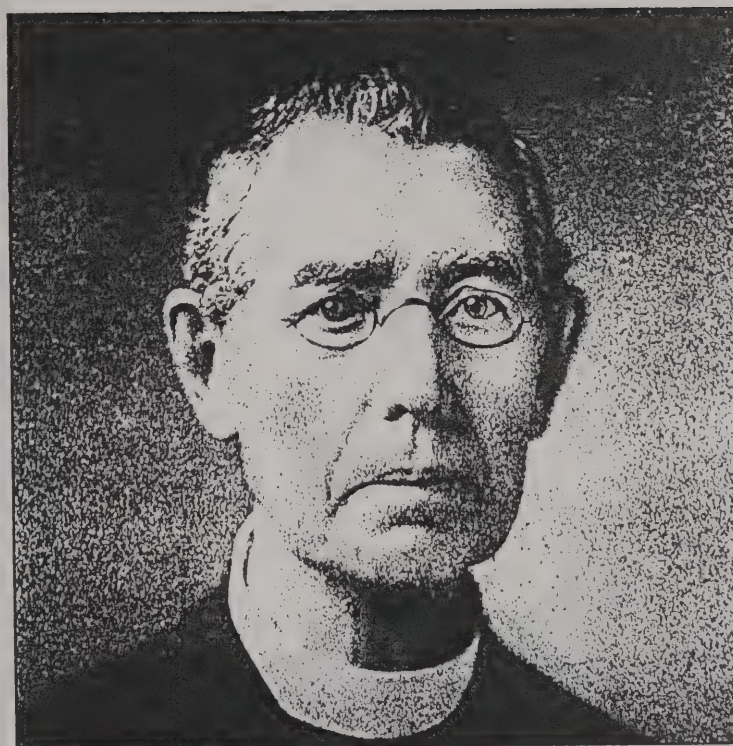


REV. JAMES C. MCGUINNESS

Father McGuinness was buried in a grave in front of the church at Hector and Harry Streets. In later years, when the church was extended to the full limits of the lot by the building of the vestibule, the body of Father McGuinness was transferred to the Cemetery of St. Matthew's.

REV. RICHARD KINAHAN was Pastor from 1863 to 1905, when he became Rector Emeritus. Not too many in the parish today retain a memory of the services and accomplishments of these spiritual leaders. Historically, they belong to the nineteenth century period of the history of St. Matthew's Parish. Spiritually, they are still a part of the twentieth century period. They trained the generation that begot this generation. They lit the torch, the "lumen Christi" (the light of Christ) which the priests and people of St. Matthew's have carried aloft, undiminished and unwaveringly, higher and brighter from their day to our own.

Both Fathers Nugent and McGuinness had sponsored the early efforts towards physical structure in the small stone building (subsequently added

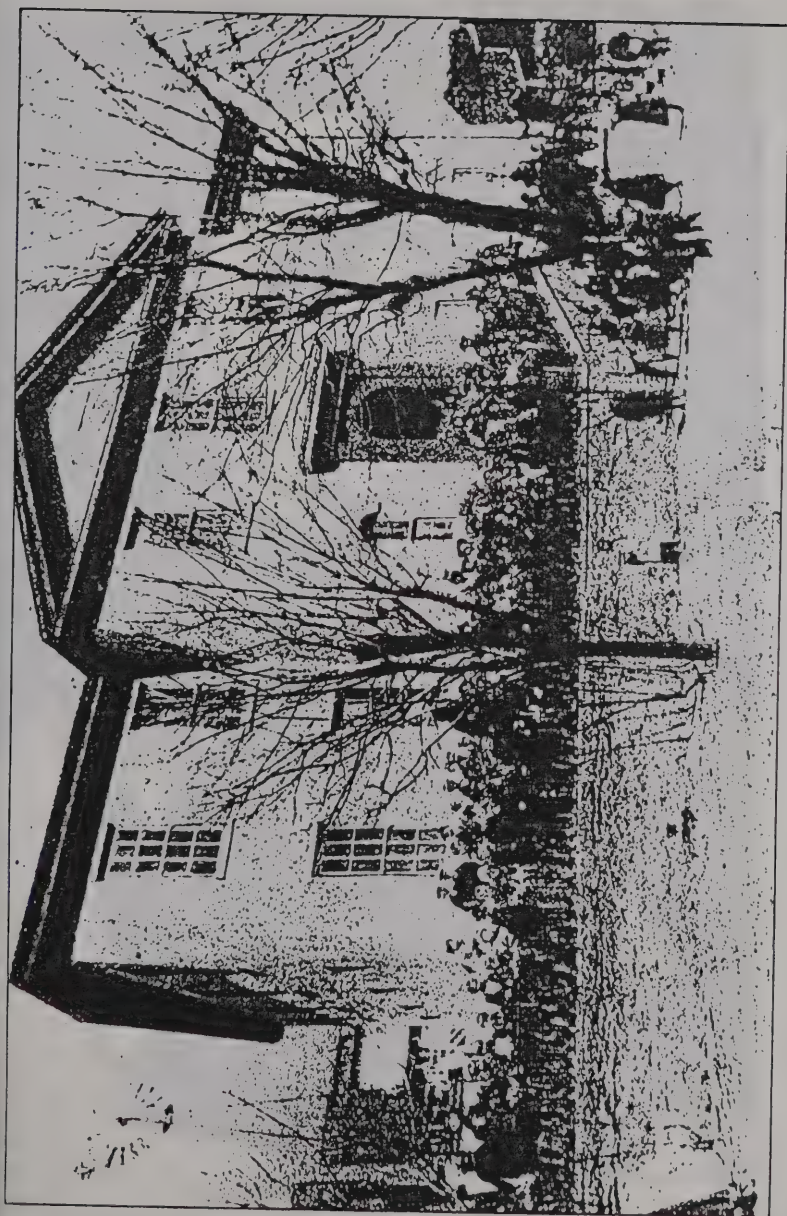


REV. RICHARD KINAHAN

to) at Hector and Harry Streets, the structure now housing the Veterans' Organization.

On St. Matthew's Day, September 21st, 1863, REVEREND RICHARD KINAHAN of blessed memory, became Rector of St. Matthew's. He was born in Ireland, came to this country at an early age, and was educated for the Church in the old St. Charles Borromeo Seminary at 18th and Race Streets, Philadelphia. He was ordained in January 1854 and for several years was stationed at St. John the Baptist Church in Manayunk. He came to St. Matthew's at a time when the seeds sown by his predecessors were bursting into life.

Pursuant to this development was the recognition of the need for Religion in education, completing the threesome of "Readin," "Ritin" and "Rithmetic." The Catholic Church has always maintained that intellectual, moral and religious values are an inviolable trinity; that to dissociate any of the three from the other two is to frustrate the whole purpose of teaching.



ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL ERECTED 1870



MR. PETER BOLGER

Father Kinahan was determined to do something about this. He was not awed by the lack of finances. Secure in the spiritual conviction that God would provide the grace and the stalwart parishoners would provide the means, he set about to translate his spiritual dreams into concrete plans. In September 1864 he opened a school in the basement of the church, engaging three teachers to assist him. These were the first lay teachers of St. Matthew's, the Misses Mary McGuire, Mary Ella McCullough and Elizabeth O'Brien.

By June of 1865 there were 50 children enrolled, and when school reopened in the fall, an advanced course for older students was added, Miss McCullough assuming the teaching of this group, while Miss Cora Shaw was added to the teaching staff.

To the late Peter Bolger went the honor of being the first lay Principal and Professor in the High School, still in the church basement. He was a graduate of the then famous Locke School in Norristown, the father of Hon. Robert V. Bolger, a former U. S. Assistant Attorney, and present Judge of the Municipal Orphan's Court in Philadelphia County.



ARCHBISHOP THOMAS F. KENNEDY

By September 1869 about 100 children were enrolled from every section of the county. Now, additional facilities were mandatory. A lot of ground on the northerly side of Hector Street, east of Ash, was purchased in 1870 by Father Kinahan, as he saw the parochial dreams in his own soul shape to reality. The building erected on this ground now houses the St. Matthew's junior and senior High Schools. Originally, it consisted of two stories, with ten class rooms and six cloak rooms. Its ceilings are high, all rooms with outside exposure, well lighted, and said by insurance officials to be equal in most respects to many modern such structures. Father Kinahan was his own architect, and many of the parishoners of three generations ago assisted with the construction. On the first floor in the center room was an altar, and frequently the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered there, the sliding partitions affording space for a large group. Landscaping of the grounds with terraced lawn and well-kept trees, showed meticulous care. A 36" brick walk encircled the school building, edged with barbed wire, about 18 inches high, and who can forget the fears of punishment—as well as the public ostracism—that faced the very few offenders who "walked on the grass"? The pump and the artesian well, with the windmill that often failed, preceded the later and more modern installations within the school. They were characteristic of our way of life at this time, and their passing marked an era in the history of the school.

In September 1872, the second floor of the Hector Street building was first occupied, and gradually the entire building was utilized. From the very first day, in the primary grade, was the assistant teacher, Father Kinahan. If ever a priest was actuated by a holy zeal, here was one. His goal was on the far horizon; he taught, as did the Master, daily in the temple.

In 1875 Peter Bolger resigned as Principal and later became a newspaper correspondent of national repute. Before his death he became Secretary of the Municipal Civil Service in Philadelphia County.

Thomas F. Kennedy, residing in Plymouth Meeting, then became Principal. He, too, was a product of the Locke School, and the following four years proved the most flourishing of any in St. Matthew's history. The first class was graduated from the High School in 1878, comprising the Misses Catherine Tracy, Catherine Harper, Elizabeth Scanlin, Julia O'Brien and Mr. Edward McDonald. Of this class, four subsequently became teachers in St. Matthew's. The next class included Hugh J. Dugan (later a priest and assistant pastor here), Charles Ozhae, John Mulligan, and Miss Sallie D. O'Neill. Miss O'Neill returned to teach in September and continued until her death June 6, 1914. A high passing mark was required for graduation, and the course was little short of present-day college requirements. An incident is related regarding the diplomas which deserves retelling here. It seemed that Graduation Day approached, and the firm that lithographed the diplomas failed in their promise to deliver the coveted parchments to the utter consternation of Father Kinahan. His assistant, the late Father Loughlin,

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later a Monsignor, suggested that blank pieces of paper, suitably tied with ribbons, be handed to the graduates, who would later have the substitutions explained, and they could obtain the real diplomas when received. "This would be the basest form of deception" said Father Kinahan "and we will tolerate nothing of the kind in St. Matthew's." A hurried trip to Philadelphia by the curate brought the diplomas here in time, and all was well.

Responsive to the teachings of his heart, Mr. Kennedy, lay Principal, then but 21 years of age, but destined for greater things, entered the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo at Overbrook, in September 1879. He so impressed the authorities that after three years he was sent to complete his studies for the priesthood in the very heart of Catholicism, Rome. On July 24th, 1887 he was ordained "alter Christus," another priest of God, and after receiving his Doctorate in Philosophy and Theology, he returned to the States and was appointed a teacher at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. A learned scholastic and recognized authority on sacred theology, he was chosen Rector of the American College at Rome in 1901. On December 27, 1907 Dr. Kennedy, still directing the destinies of the American College, was consecrated Titular Bishop of Adrianople, and on June 15, 1915, he became Archbishop of the See of Salencia. His brilliant earthly career terminated at Castel Gondolfo, Italy, August 28th, 1917, when the beloved Archbishop was called to his reward.

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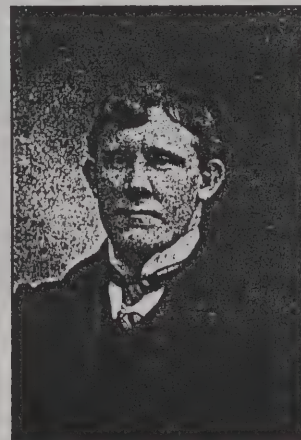
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Geo. J. Rafferty, Ph.G.

Mr. Edward McDonald became lay Principal of St. Matthew's in 1879, and he assisted Father Kinahan in this capacity until failing health compelled his retirement in 1890. These must have been days of assiduous and unremitting labor for teacher and student, for the branches taught in St. Matthew's, in addition to the regular studies, included Etymology, Single and Double Entry Bookkeeping, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, the use of terrestrial and celestial globes, Algebra, including radicals and indeterminate analysis, seven books of geometry, mensuration and trigonometry, including use of the surveyors' transit.



MR. BERNARD F. CORRIGAN

Simultaneously with the Philadelphia Board of Education, Father Kinahan adopted the McAllister System of Teaching in the primary grades. In St. Matthew's, certain changes were made in the system, in order to reach the least gifted member of the class, later recognized as the basis of modern pedagogy.

Following the death of Prof. McDonald in 1890, Bernard F. Corrigan was named lay Principal. In 1893, at the World's Fair in Chicago, St. Matthew's won medals and certificates for the work there exhibited, and it was apparent that the fame of St. Matthew's had reached far beyond the confines of the parish. Nationally known educators came here, following a convention in Philadelphia, led by Samuel Corson, Mrs. Mary Mumford, the first woman representative on the Phila. School Board, and Dr. Edward Brooks, Superintendent of Schools and author of several books on arithmetic.

A correspondent of a Philadelphia newspaper of this period, wrote: "Conshohocken, 'Edge of the Hills' is all hills and hollows, but the hills are lofty and the hollows teeming with life and industry. It has, moreover, a Catholic Parochial School, St. Matthew's, which made quite an impression on

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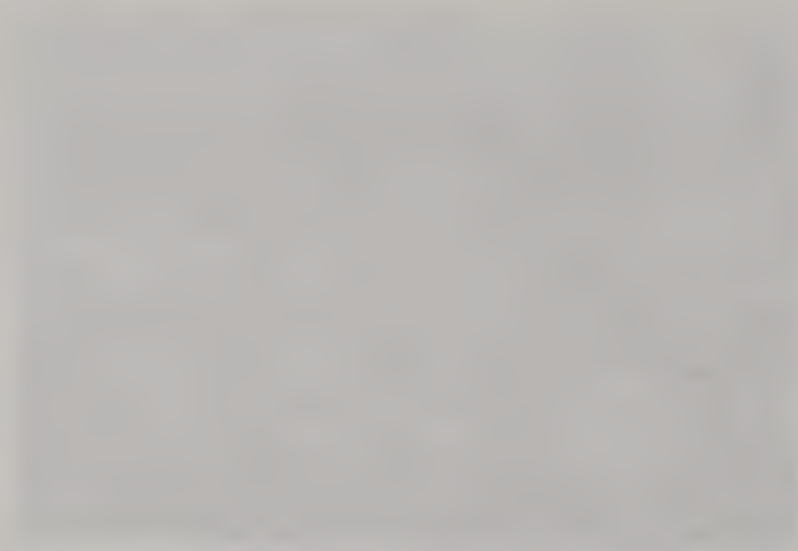
Showrooms



PUPILS OF ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

the judges at the World's Fair in Chicago, and brought a noble testimony of certificates, diplomas and complimentary letters to this quiet little town. The school is noted for its excellence, and I spent many interesting hours in the classrooms. Good judges, practical and progressive, admit that St. Matthew's excels in modern methods and in results attained. I have never seen such wonders wrought with all sorts of pupils. From the Primary Grades—the tiniest ones—everyone writes a clear, distinct hand; copy books have no blots, no crooked lines . . . The teachers are well grounded in their methods of instructing and they can describe and exhibit them with ease and fluency. A collection of rare and costly instruments unequalled in Philadelphia, from the University downwards. The walls of the classrooms are hung with maps, original and instructive; they are curiously practical maps of the great divisions of the earth, made, as are nearly all of the maps, in the school, by the teachers. These all, with a fine observatory in the school yard, are more than proof that this is no ordinary school. The heart of the reverend Pastor has given of its best for more than forty years, and the name of Father Kinahan is well known and revered throughout the educational world."

Another correspondent wrote: "The Chemical and physical laboratory presents an array of apparatus of inestimable value; terrestrial and celestial globes that actually rotate, propelled by clock-work; the famed Lunatellus, showing the various orbits with entwining ellipses. Frequent use is made of the precision instruments with the result that the idea of astronomical exactness dominates the work of the students in every branch. Father Kinahan



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I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the above matter.
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The annual exhibit of the work of the children, held during the Christmas holidays, between Christmas and New Year's, was a feature that drew parents and visitors for the space of three days. Map-drawing, Spencerian specimens, hand sketching and copies of some of the masterpieces in crayon gave proof of the accomplishments to be found in St. Matthew's.

Many of the older members of this Parish will recall with fond memories the picture of Father Kinahan in the Primary Grade, as he observed the progress of his pupils, a mild reproof here, a kindly word of encouragement there. But it must be remembered also that after school was dismissed at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, he taught a High School class in globes or spherical trigonometry, a versatile educator indeed.

After fourteen years as Principal, Professor Corrigan resigned to enter the mercantile field, in 1904. He died the following year of yellow fever, in Havana, Cuba, while on a mission for his employers.

He was succeeded by Michael J. Kehoe, a graduate of the school, Class of 1901. To maintain the high standards of St. Matthew's, it must be apparent, was a task of no mean proportions, but with the aid of the teachers, all graduates of the school, no departure was permitted from the highly successful methods of Father Kinahan. The interest of the Scientific Society, composed of about a score of the older and active members of the parish, was enlisted to procure additional apparatus for the laboratories; with the assistance of Father Kinahan, studies in astronomy were established and frequently evenings were spent in the observatory in the school-yard; eclipses were observed and data sent to the national observatory in Washington, D.C. The signs of the zodiac, location of the constellations, the mountains on Mars and the rings of Saturn, the Northern Lights, the return of the comets and other visitors to our terrestrial sphere became commonplace discussions. Because of the awakening of greater interest in education and the growing need for high school diplomas, the number of graduates increased annually. Superintendent Frank Cloud, together with representatives of the Conshohocken School Board, frequently visited classes and studied the Spencerian methods during penmanship periods; the handsomely bound volumes of examination papers from 1880; and the classes in advanced mathematics in the High School, while they marvelled at the fine discipline of the entire student body.

Father Kinahan was a member of the Catholic Diocesan School Board, and his opinions were respected. While he gave most freely of his time to his school, his pastoral duties were not regarded lightly. He was stern in every detail of school work; yet his fine priestly qualities were transcendent always. His admonitions were never forgotten; one rather sensed than saw

(Continued on Page 33)

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MR. MICHAEL J. KEHOE

The narrative "History of St. Matthew's" is the product of Michael Kehoe's memory together with his ability and incentive to write. He has given us a concise and descriptive account of St. Matthew's. His kindness and cooperation are recognized and I know, you the reader, will appreciate his work. Thank you Michael.

Father Kiniry



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(Continued from Page 29)

that he walked with God; and who can ever forget the sincerity of his "God bless you" at parting.

The second of the ecclesiastical divisions of St. Matthew's Parish began when Father Kinahan asked relief from his pastoral duties in 1905. Thenceforward his interest in school work continued, restricted only by his physical infirmities. After his death the work he had instituted went on. Frequent teachers' meetings were held and an exchange of ideas effected. Problems presented themselves but the spirit of Father Kinahan, ever present, found solution. The help of the lay teachers, schooled under Father Kinahan, proved of inestimable value, and the work of the founder went on.

On January 23rd, 1905, Father Kinahan observed the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood, though confined to his room by failing health. REV. JAMES P. PARKER, transferred from the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Philadelphia, assumed the duties of Administrator on January 27th, 1905, Father Kinahan becoming Rector Emeritus. He continued his interest in school work, and, when his health permitted, was found at his customary place in the primary grade. The burden of carrying on, however, rested on the shoulders of Father Parker and the school faculty. Father Kinahan insisted upon attending a meeting of the Diocesan School Board in November 1909, and contracted a cold. He failed to respond to medical aid, and closed a useful and edifying life by a holy death, his soul winging its flight to his Maker, on the evening of Sunday, December 19th, 1909, as the Angelus "toll'd the knell of parting day." His funeral was attended by thousands from every walk of life, of every denomination; business houses were closed while his mortal remains were interred in the grave before the granite altar erected at the entrance to the old St. Matthew's Cemetery.

Pursuant to instructions from the Archbishop, Most Reverend Edmund F. Prendergast, early in 1915, Father Parker sought the services of a teaching order of Religious. This was a task that combined a decision of moment to the children and the parents of the parish, and to the community. So when announcement was made that the Sisters of St. Joseph, one of the best qualified of the teaching communities, were chosen, the people of St. Matthew's were assured that the education of their children would continue on the same high standard of the preceding fifty years. And the children continue to reflect credit on their Alma Mater; standards are preserved, and in the thirty-five years since the advent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Matthew's continues to send forth a distinctive quality of fine American citizens, children who can ably represent their school; scholars destined for high places, and holden to the principles of religion.

Father Parker, meanwhile, had organized groups and committees for parish benefits, and they toiled without fail, never tiring, multiplying activities from week to week; house parties were held; the parish picnic; the grand bazaars, all happy memories; every individual member of the parish entered into the spirit of the vast undertaking ahead. And culminating these

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THE BOWKER HOMESTEAD

activities came the announcement that a site had been secured for the new St. Matthew's Church. The John F. Bowker property at the south-east corner of 3rd Avenue and Fayette Street, and the property of John Pugh, adjoining, extending 100 feet along Fayette Street, and through to Harry Street, had been purchased for the parish. The Bowker homestead, a landmark, was removed to the south-west corner of 3rd Avenue and Harry Street, where it was remodeled and converted to St. Matthew's Convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Pugh property was dismantled. Adjoining property, vacant lots, along Fayette Street, subsequently purchased, provided space for the grade school later.

Work was begun on the new Church building in 1915, and on St. Matthew's Day, September 21st, 1919, the new and beautiful St. Matthew's with its spires pointing to heaven, was dedicated by His Grace, Most Reverend Dennis J. Dougherty, then Archbishop of Philadelphia, later Cardinal Dougherty. The building is pure 13th century Gothic, and its "Early Perpendicular" construction lends itself admirably to the sloping hills and local terrain. Of light buff Holmesburg granite, trimmed with limestone, it impresses one by its massive, yet refined, exterior, with its Gothic buttresses and structural lines vaulted as the skies beyond.

It is a well established historical fact that architecture had its origin in religious feelings and observances. Gothic architecture stems from the skill of the northern barbaric tribes, the Goths and the Visigoths who, after their conversion to Christianity by the Church, developed the vaulted arch

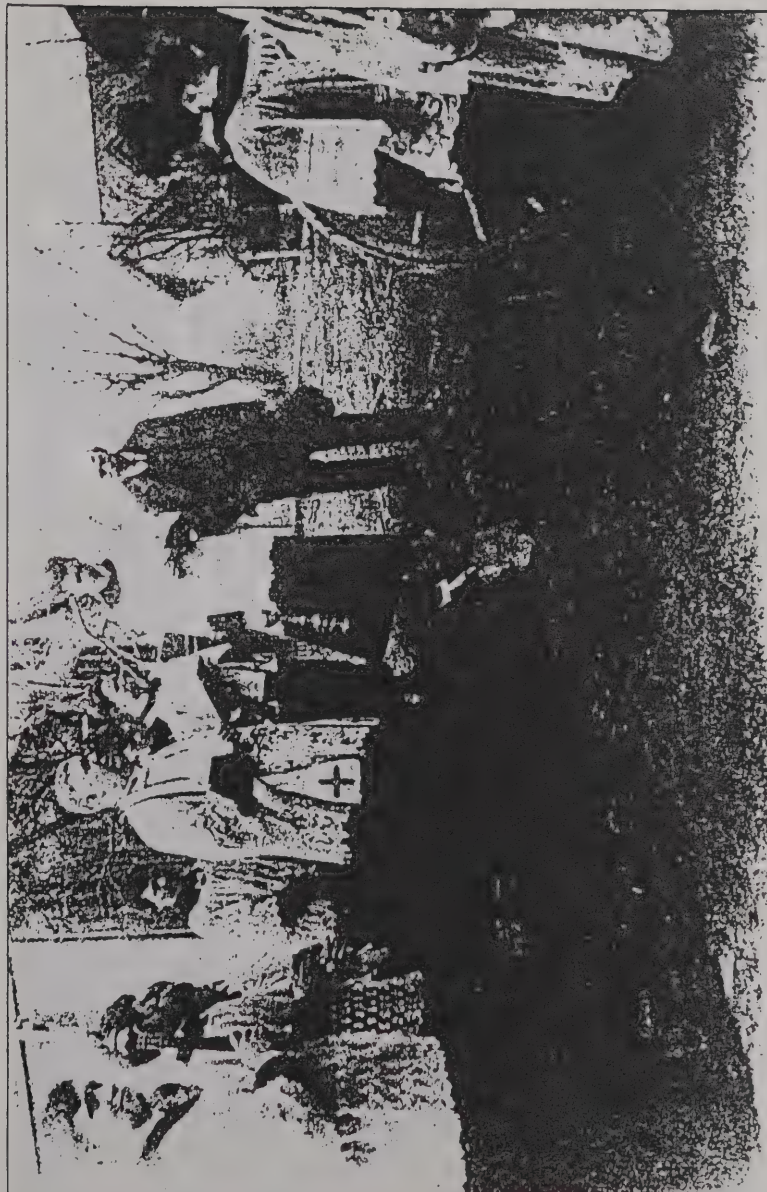
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and this type construction reached perfection in the 13th, greatest of centuries. It abounds in France, Spain, Germany, England, and in Italy, and many of the famous churches and basilicas are of this type structure.

To get back to St. Matthew's, the principal feature of the exterior is the tower, with its strong perpendicular buttresses, combining massiveness in its Gothic lines. The main facade, with its central entrance from Fayette Street, balances tastefully with the rose window, and surmounted by a niche for the statue of St. Matthew, the patron saint of the Church.

The church proper plan is cruciform, permitting seating of 850 persons, with unobstructed view in the long nave and extending transepts. We find the Gothic exterior motif preserved in the interior. The principal structural lines terminate in the paneled and vaulted ceiling, peculiarly Gothic. An atmosphere of devotion is assisted by the effective coloring of the high stained glass windows, shedding a subdued light over the whole interior. These windows are the work of Henry Lee Willets and his wife, recognized masters of the stained glass art in America. The paneling of the altar rail is Gothic. The three spires of the main altar, symbolic of the Trinity, tower upwards, carrying out the Gothic motif. The main altar, made in Italy, of the finest Carrara marble, is the gift to the parish of the late Archbishop Kennedy and his family here.

On the apse wall over the main altar, is the al fresco painting of the Ascension of our Lord, one of the finest examples of this type of ecclesiastical decoration in the country. The floors of the nave and transept are laid in handmade tile, while that of the sanctuary marble. The Stations of the Cross along the outer walls of the ambulatory, are also al fresco and the figures and the coloring striking and masterful, of high artistic merit.

The strain of the war years (World War I) with construction problems aggravating conditions, so weighed on Father Parker that his health began to fail before the church building was completed. He appeared almost nightly in the Government Bond drives to finance the war, and was instrumental in no small measure in sending every local drive over the top, for he was an orator of ability whose services were eagerly sought.

His fondest hope was to see the completion of his task, and by the mercy of God this hope was realized. He was spared but a short time to enjoy the fruits of his labors for the greater glory of God. He passed on to his Maker for the reward to his faithful stewardship February 17th, 1921.

REV. PHILIP J. GALLAGHER, D.D., L.L.D., for many years teacher at the College and Seminary of Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg, Md., became Rector of St. Matthew's on February 22nd. So again, the interests of education were to be served, and the sacred traditions of St. Matthew's preserved. His great interest was in teaching, aside from his pastoral duties. Much of his time was spent in the school, where he taught Latin and Greek history.

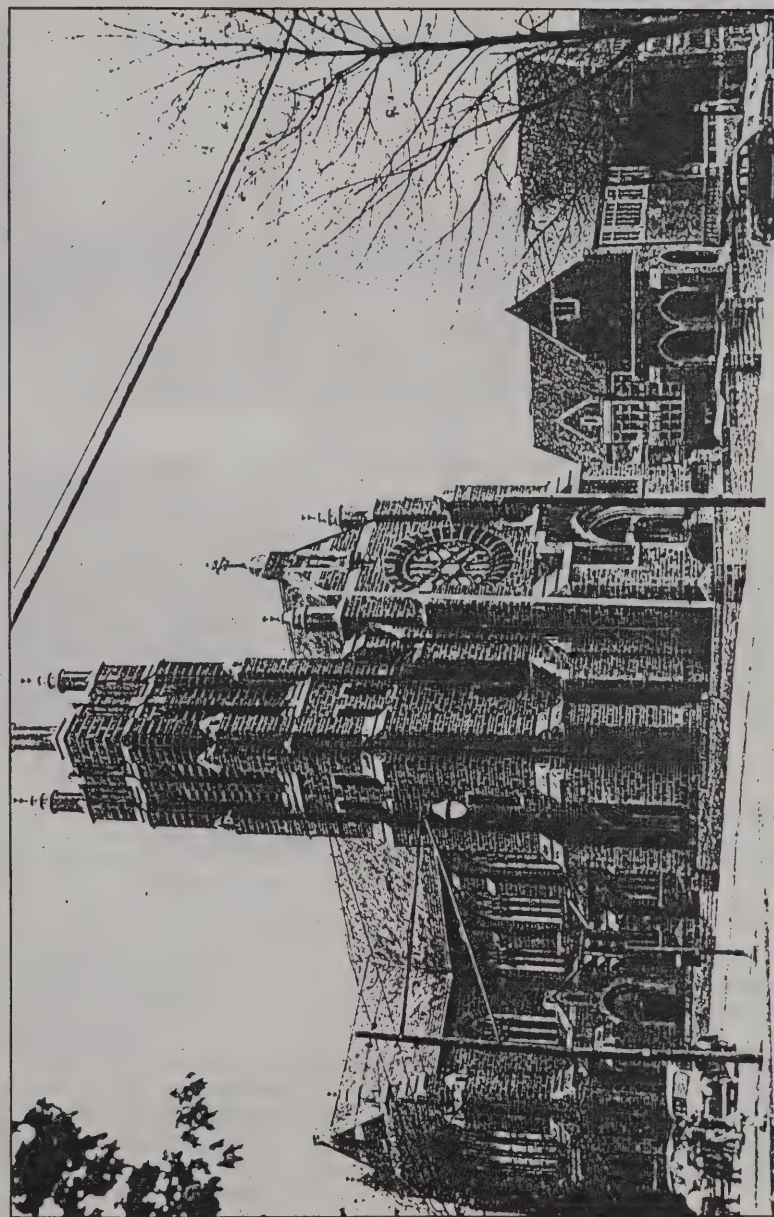
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FATHER PARKER



VICTORY PARADE ON SPRING MILL AVE., 1918

In the school he had a modern heating plant installed, followed by a thorough modernization of the interior. A third story was added to relieve congestion; recognition was received from the State of Pennsylvania, and the High School accredited "Class A," so that its graduates and diplomas are recognized for college entrance.

The former church building at Hector and Harry Streets was converted to class rooms, so fast did the attendance grow. But even this did not suffice and Doctor Gallagher was given permission to erect a new grade school building on ground adjoining the rectory along Fayette Street. The contract for the handsome new building was awarded June 9th, 1929, the total cost to be \$164,000.00.



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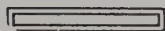
REV. PHILIP J. GALLAGHER, D.D., L.L.D.

Observing the growth of families in the Barren Hill section, it was Dr. Gallagher who instituted bus service for the children to share the benefits of Catholic Christian Education, and later laid the foundation for St. Philip's Mission there. On October 22, 1922, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated in a private house in Barren Hill, and the priests of St. Matthew's continued to bring the faith to the Catholic people in this fast-growing section.

Before work had developed very far on the new St. Matthew's grade school building, however, Dr. Gallagher, because of his wide experience as a schoolman, his fine qualifications as a teacher and his great love of education, was chosen by Archbishop Michael Curley of the Baltimore Diocese, as Rector of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, the oldest institution for the training of priests in the United States. On May 26th, 1930, Dr. Gallagher left St. Matthew's for his new position in the Church, as a sorrowing congregation bade him farewell and God-speed.

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On St. Matthew's Centenary

And so, after an all too brief assignment to St. Matthew's, Dr. Gallagher returned to Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, in the quiet seclusion of the Maryland hills. There he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the Priesthood, in 1948. His great love of work in the Seminary, sparing himself in no way, gradually brought on failing health, and he was obliged to relinquish his duties as Rector, but continued residence at the Mount. He died October 1, 1947, at the age of 78, and his mortal remains lie buried in the Shadow of the Seminary awaiting judgment and eternity.

REV. WILLIAM A. O'DONNELL succeeded Dr. Gallagher as Pastor, assuming his duties May 30th, 1930. Father O'Donnell was ordained by the late Archbishop Ryan, May 27th, 1899, following completion of his studies at the Diocesan Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook. He later received a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. His first appointment, following ordination, was to the Church of St. Cyril and Methodius, Bethlehem, Pa., where he served as Acting Rector for a short time, when he was appointed curate at St. Matthew's. He served for about two years under Father Kinahan, and his host of friends regretted his transfer in June 1901 to Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Philadelphia. He remained there as assistant rector until 1912.

The tender warmth and kindness of his heart and his earnest solicitation for the needy of God's creatures, no doubt militated for his appointment as the first Diocesan Inspector of Charities in the Phila. Archdiocese. He continued in this position until 1917, when failing health compelled a cessation of activity entirely. He was subsequently assigned as assistant rector of the Church of the Visitation B.V.M., Phila., where he remained until 1925, when he was transferred to Corpus Christi Church in Phila., as assistant rector. It was from this assignment that he was named Pastor of St. Matthew's, from whence he had gone 24 years before. He arrived to assume his pastoral duties on the afternoon of May 30th, 1930, where a committee of the parish greeted him upon his arrival.

Confronting the new Pastor was the task of completing the new grade school. On Sunday, December 7th, 1930, the corner-stone of the building was laid, Right Reverend Gerald O'Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese officiating. The economic conditions of these days featured failure of employment among the people, brought constantly increasing problems to Father O'Donnell. Yet he never murmured, never complained. God did provide the grace to complete the building of the school, completing the triad of Church, Rectory and School. This school building is imposing, with its pointed arches, straight lines, delicate and restrained ornament lending it a character of nobility, spirituality and fineness symbolic of Christian Catholic Education. The Gothic style of the Church was followed with modifications dictated by the purpose of the building. It houses the grades, while the Hector Street building is used for the junior and senior High School.

Facilities and accommodations at St. Philip's Mission proved inadequate, and Father O'Donnell sought permission from the Cardinal to purchase a

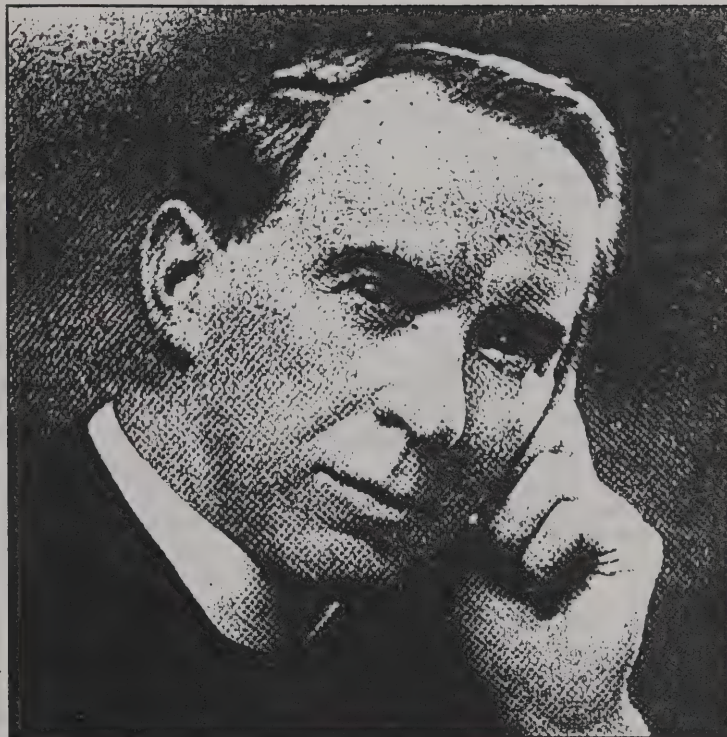
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REV. WILLIAM A. O'DONNELL

building and ground on Germantown Pike near Chestnut St. in Barren Hill, to be used for church purposes. The building was renovated and dedicated to the use of the faithful in this section. Since then the Mission has become a Parish, with Rev. A. A. Doyle as first Pastor. A handsome new church has been completed and plans for a new school have been completed to the extent that a building sufficiently large to accommodate four grades, a large auditorium and cafeteria is now in use. Pending completion of the building to accommodate the higher grades, the other children of the parish are taken daily to St. Matthew's by bus.

His great love for the children of the Parish, emulating that of his predecessors; his patient self-sacrificing devotion to the priestly vocation in caring for the spirituality of his flock, have endeared Father O'Donnell to the hearts of his people. It is from this kindness of manner towards men that spring kind words, kind thoughts, kind deeds, of which Father O'Donnell is the embodiment.

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Never too strong physically, his health gradually failed, and in the summer of 1943 he was obliged to ask for relief from his pastoral duties in St. Matthew's.

On August 9th, REV. JOSEPH WILLIAM KAVANAGH, then Secretary to Bishop Gerald O'Hara, at Savannah, Ga., was named Administrator, as Father O'Donnell became Rector Emeritus. Father Kavanagh arrived in St. Matthew's August 31st, 1943. Ordained to the holy priesthood May 30th, 1931 at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Father Kavanagh was named assistant rector of St. Patrick's in Pottsville, remaining there until June 1934. At this time he was appointed Secretary to Auxiliary Bishop Gerald O'Hara of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, who was also rector of the Church of the Nativity B.V.M. In January 1938 Bishop O'Hara was made Bishop of Savannah, Ga., and asked that Father Kavanagh be permitted to accompany him. Together they worked tirelessly in the interest of Catholicity in the southland. Their united effort was terminated when Father Kavanagh was named Administrator of St. Matthew's, August 9th, 1943.

Father Kavanagh arrived here August 21st, 1943. His earnest solicitude for the health of Father O'Donnell early won for him the heartfelt gratitude of the people of the Parish, in whose service Father O'Donnell had spent himself. Every comfort was provided and gradually Father O'Donnell's health improved and he was soon able to be about again.

The care of the parish buildings and properties soon engrossed the attention of Father Kavanagh, and with the assistance of scores of his parishioners, mechanics, artisans, laborers, much needed repairs such as carpentry, painting, etc., were completed on the respective buildings in turn. First came the Hector St. High School building, then the Convent, the rectory and the grade school, all of which were thoroughly renovated, the work directed and supervised by Father Kavanagh.

All traces of many of the early families of the parish had disappeared in the nearly four generations of the parish life, with the result that many of the early graves in the cemetery lots were not properly cared for. Time and the elements had taken their toll of the markers on the graves, the railings, the iron fences, the headstones, many of which were no longer readable. Over many week-ends, Father Kavanagh and his staff of parishioners toiled to correct these conditions. Dangerous and unnecessary trees were removed, and both the old and the new cemeteries were shorn of the foliage and creeping vines, the accumulations of years, that impeded even foot traffic. Now could be found the graves where the four generations of these founding fathers were interred, where our honored dead had been laid to rest, where their dust is to mingle with that of the earth until the final judgment. If Father Kavanagh had done no more, then the accomplishment of these tasks would have enshrined him in the memory of a grateful parish. And it was all accomplished at a minimum of expense to the Parish. Previously the care of the cemetery lots was the responsibility of the lot owners; now annual

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The great energy that Father Kavanagh possessed, sparing himself in no way, was manifest throughout the Parish in spirituality also. Recurring feast days saw a wealth of ceremonials that brought new life to a faith coming down through the centuries, and gave inspiration anew to St. Matthew's. He had the energy of a St. Paul; yet kindly as was the Good Shepherd for the spiritual care of his flock.

The interior of the 13th century Gothic Church next received the attention of Father Kavanagh. The vaulted arches of the ceiling in their natural finish did not reflect the real beauty and harmony and massiveness of the architecture. The decoration of the walls, and the delineation of the paneling to bring out the detail were a tremendous undertaking, but Father Kavanagh set this as his goal. An initial donation of \$10,000.00 was made by Mrs. Annie B. Meyers, in memory of her husband, the late William F. Meyers, Esq., a lifelong resident of St. Matthew's, an altar boy, and a graduate

ROBERT W. TOLE



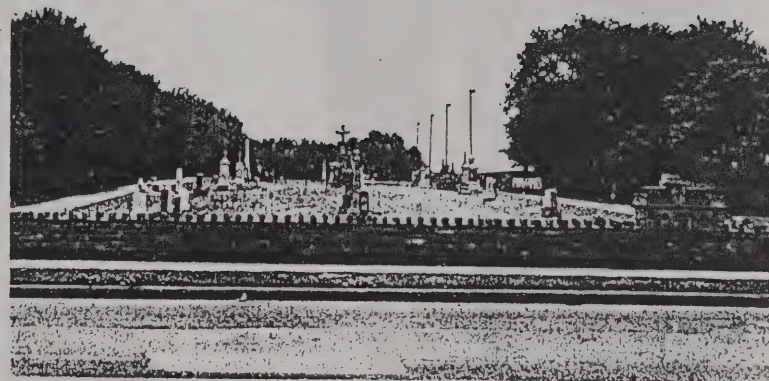
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VIEW OF ST. MATTHEW'S OLD CEMETERY

of St. Matthew's High School. This was for the purpose of redecorating the interior. Thomas J. Carroll, also a life-long resident of the Parish, provided for the embellishment of the thirteen Stations of the Cross, in memory of his deceased wife, Margaret. Other members of the Parish assisted, with the result that the redecorated interior now presents a handsome appearance, more striking than ever. The tracery on the apse wall over the main altar, surrounding the alfresco "The Ascension" is bold and reminiscent of that seen in many of the ancient churches on the continent. The ribs in the vaulted arches of the ceiling and the side walls stand out against the celestial blue above the sanctuary, and the light terra cotta sidewalls throughout the body of the church.

Looking to the future needs of the parish, Father Kavanagh purchased ground, several vacant lots between Seventh and Eighth Avenues on the easterly side of Fayette Street, between the homes of the late James Tracy and Henry M. Tracy, Esq., to be used for the erection of new school buildings, as and when the present school facilities become inadequate. The Henry M. Tracy homestead, at the corner of 8th Avenue and Fayette Street, was

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later purchased. The original James Tracy homestead has since been bequeathed to St. Matthew's parish by Miss Margaret Tracy, and endowments received from the Tracy family, consisting of the late John C., Matthew and George Tracy and Mrs. Catherine Horn, together with a sister, Miss Margaret Tracy, now residing in Philadelphia. Thus the entire block, bordered by Fayette Street, 8th Avenue, Harry Street and 7th Avenue, is now church property. For the time being the buildings have been converted to apartments, to so remain until the need for school facilities becomes more urgent, and the parish funds, bequests and endowments have resulted in the accumulation of the necessary funds to provide new buildings, as well as looking to their subsequent maintenance and care.

Many other changes and improvements in the physical property of the parish were inaugurated by Father Kavanagh, while the fine spirit of cooperation between priest and people made this a most memorable epoch in St. Matthew's history. And just about when the work seemed complete, Father Kavanagh was appointed Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration on Cedar Avenue, between 55th and 56th Streets, one of the finest parishes in the City of Philadelphia.

REV. GEORGE L. MURPHY, J.C.D., was assigned as the new Administrator of St. Matthew's by Cardinal Dougherty, assuming his duties on Monday, August 11, 1947.

Father Murphy had received his early education in the school of St. Edward's Parish, Philadelphia. Upon completion of his studies for the priesthood, he was ordained May 21st, 1921. He was chosen from his class for two years of study at the Catholic University in Washington, D. C., where in 1923 he received his Degree of Doctor of Canon Law.

Returning to Philadelphia, he was named Assistant Rector of Our Lady of Mercy Parish where he remained for two years; then to St. Ambrose for one year; at St. Gregory's for nine years; then to Holy Cross for six years, whence he was assigned to St. Anne's in 1940, all Philadelphia Parishes.

Father Murphy continued as Assistant Rector at St. Anne's until appointed Administrator at St. Matthew's in August 1947.

In his nearly four years with us he completed the work of physical rebuilding within the parish begun by Father Kavanagh. Those of us close to Father Murphy have not failed to recognize that the fundamental virtue of Christian and priestly life is strong and burning within his soul. From his deep faith springs a solid piety which must edify every member of this congregation. His zeal and interest in everything concerning the Church continues as on the first day he was ordained a priest of God. To all of us he is a priestly gentleman, abounding in priestly zeal, and above all saturated with love of God, his Church, his country and his fellow-man.

Father O'Donnell continued residence at the rectory and everything possible was done and tried to make him more comfortable. On Sunday, May 27th, 1949, Father O'Donnell had attained his fiftieth year of service

A. M. BLANCHE

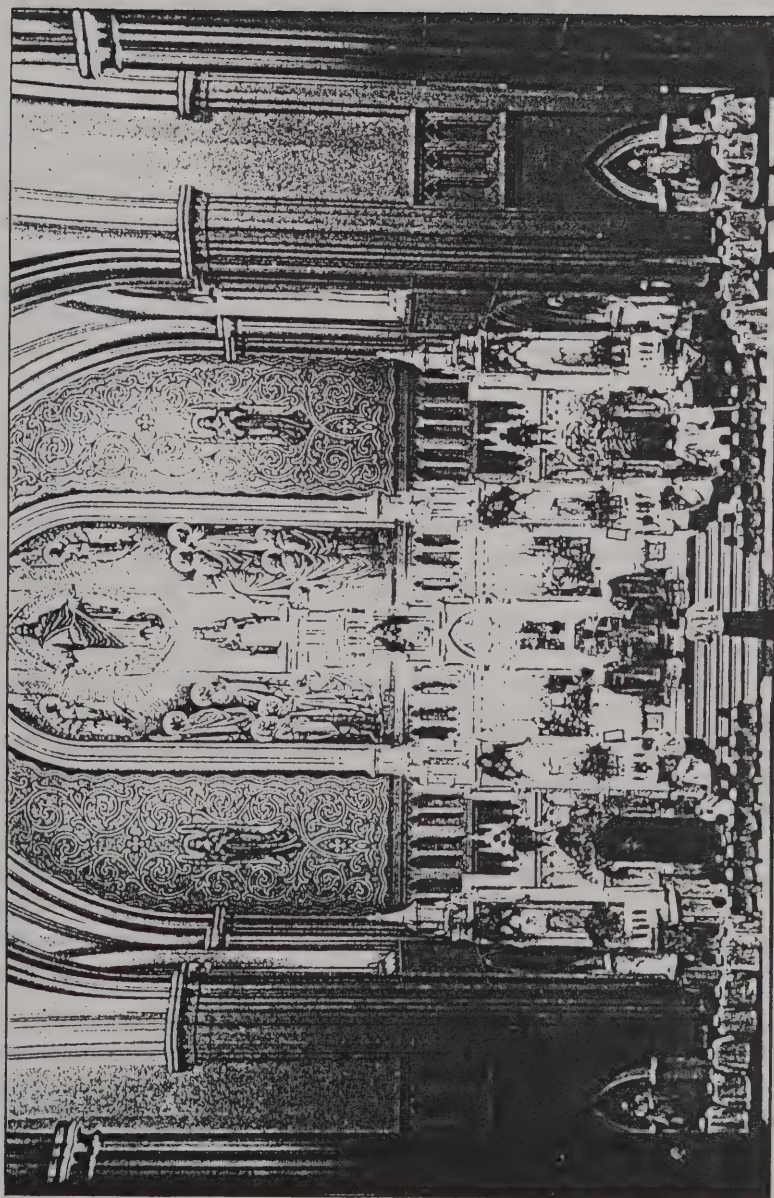


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in the Lord's vineyard. For him it had been a labor of love and he left a path strewn with roses and bordered with the finer accomplishments of his priestly calling. This was his Golden Jubilee. Fifty years of preaching and service for the salvation of the souls of men, nineteen of these years spent in St. Matthew's in the cause of Christ. In these fifty years he had saved thousands of souls and enlightened thousands of minds and gladdened thousands of hearts through the personality of his priesthood and through the priestliness of his personality. But now he was worn with his labor. The occasion of a Golden Jubilee in the priesthood is one for celebration and thanksgiving to Almighty God for having permitted the Jubilarian the opportunity of carrying on the great work for which Christ commissioned His Church. But the health of Father O'Donnell precluded any large demonstration, such as would befit the occasion.

Accordingly, Father Murphy arranged a program, memorable, but in true simplicity in keeping with the quiet life of the Jubilarian and mindful of his present physical condition. Father O'Donnell had always cherished a tender love and regard for the children and children everywhere reciprocated in kind. He was a lover of children as well as beloved by them. The gifts of the children as well as those of their elders overwhelmed Father O'Donnell, and he was visibly affected as the children offered their Mass of Thanksgiving at 9 o'clock on the Sunday of his Jubilee. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the St. Matthew's All-Girl High School Band gave a concert on the rectory lawn, the porch of the rectory banked with flowers and ferns, completing a beautiful setting. This was followed by Solemn Benediction at 5 o'clock, when the church was filled in overflowing, many failing to obtain entrance. Rev. Francis Kane, rector of the Church of Corpus Christi, where Father O'Donnell served as Assistant prior to coming to St. Matthew's preached the sermon following Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At 6 o'clock, following the Angelus, a dinner was served in the rectory for twenty visiting clergymen, intimate friends and associates of Father O'Donnell for many of the fifty years he had spent in his ministrations.

His health continued poor, and he was removed to Sacred Heart Hospital, in Norristown, where his comfort was administered to and every aid known to medicine was given Father O'Donnell. In the hope that he might find some pleasure and ease and relaxation in the company of priests of the diocese, as well as the best in medical treatments, Father O'Donnell went to Villa Saint Joseph, in Darby, just outside Philadelphia, a home for aged and infirm priests of the diocese.

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A century is gone, but that is infancy in the history of a Church.

Until time shall be no more, unchanged and unchangeable, will be the Church of God, carrying on in its sacred mission of teaching.

An English non-Catholic, Lord Macauley, many years ago, paid a tribute to the antiquity and durability of the Catholic Church which is as true to-day as it was in the long-vanished years: He wrote:

"The proudest royal houses are but of yesterday when compared with the line of Supreme Pontiffs. That line we trace back in unbroken series, from the Pope who crowned Napoleon in the nineteenth century to the Pope who crowned Pepin in the eighth, and far beyond the time of Pepin the august dynasty extends till it is lost in the twilight of fable. The Republic of Venice came next in antiquity; but the Republic of Venice was modern when compared with the Papacy; and the Republic of Venice is gone and the Papacy remains.

"The Papacy remains, not in decay, not a mere antique, but full of life and youthful vigor. The Catholic Church is still sending forth to the farthest ends of the world missionaries as zealous as those who landed in Kent with Augustine, and still confronting hostile kings with the same spirit with which she confronted Attila. The number of her children is greater than in any former age.

"Her acquisitions in the New World have more than compensated for what she has lost in the Old. Her spiritual ascendancy extends over the vast countries which lie between the plains of the Missouri and Cape Horn, countries, which a century hence may not improbably contain a population as large as that which now inhabits Europe.

"Nor do we see any sign which indicates that the term of her long dominion is approaching. She saw the commencement of all the governments and of all the ecclesiastical establishments that now exist in the world, and we feel no assurance that she is not destined to see the end of them all. She was great and respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain, before the Frank had passed the Rhine, when Grecian eloquence still flourished in Antioch, when idols were still worshipped in the Temple of Mecca. And she may still exist in undiminished vigor when some traveler from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge and sketch the ruins of St. Paul's."



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To the practical Catholic, the priest is the Church. We know the priesthood was instituted by Christ at His Last Supper; that it continues Its mission among men; that the priest is empowered by Christ to offer up to the Father in an unbloody manner the very Sacrifice of Calvary; that he is empowered to change bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood; to absolve sinners from their sins and to preach the word of God. The priest is God's Ambassador, another Christ (alter Christus) a co-worker with Christ for the salvation of the world.

The gift of Faith is strong and all-consuming in the priest. He lives in an atmosphere of Faith and daily deals with the most holy truths and mysteries of Faith. He dispenses these sacred mysteries among the people. As the High Priest came down from Heaven for us and our salvation, so He sends His priest to men for their salvation.

In His mysterious ways Christ chooses from amongst men those whom He would make his priests, signing them, by the Sacrament of Holy Orders, as Captains in the Army of Christ, representing Him here on earth and participators in Christ's priestly powers.

The priest, another Christ, comes from amongst men, lives among men, is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God. Men honor and revere him for the dignity of his sacred vocation, and bless him for the benefactions which are communicated through him, because the works of his sacred ministry bespeak the kindly Providence of Almighty God, without Whom we can do nothing.

How appropriately and factually these words apply to the curates of St. Matthew's, divinely ordained to care for the souls of the faithful. They are the assistants to the Pastor, who offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; who raise their hands in absolution in the confessional; who bring tidings of great joy that salvation is at hand, and how it is to be attained. The lives of these priests are interwoven in the history of St. Matthew's as golden threads in the tapestry that is St. Matthew's. Many of these priests have already passed over the boundary of time to find eternity with Christ and His Blessed Mother, the reward of faithful stewardship. Many, too, are laboring throughout the diocese, in the vineyard, "about their Father's business." The lively faith characteristic of the faithful in St. Matthew's, is due in no small measure to their efforts by both precept and example, and they are regarded by us far in the vanguard of St. Matthew's benefactors.

Rev. John P. Kiniry and Rev. Joseph T. Schuster are the present curates in St. Matthew's, carrying on in the great work of apostleship that makes for a God-fearing people and the perpetuation of God's plan for the redemption of mankind. Rev. John E. Wrigley, Instructor in the Boys' Catholic High School, in Philadelphia, is resident here.

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Rev. Andrew J. Gallagher	Rev. Francis E. Higgins
Rev. Patrick J. Treacy	Rev. Eugene J. Travers
Rev. James J. Shields	Rev. Richard P. Phelan
Rev. Francis J. Clark	Rev. William V. McLaughlin
Rev. William A. O'Donnell	Rev. Joseph M. Smith
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GLEANED FROM PARISH RECORDS

From the Baptismal Record Book.

"On the day of the dedication of this church, which was June 22, 1851 and the Sunday within the octave of Corpus Christi, Reverend Mr. Edward J. Sourin, Vicar General, baptized James, born the twelfth day of the same month of Lawrence Clinton and Eleanor Brennan. The sponsors were Patrick Clinton and Mary Horey.

(Signed) Patrick A. Nugent.

Second Recording:

"July 13—I have baptized Margaret, born the tenth day of this month, of Thomas Lavin and Mary Fleming; the sponsors were Thomas Meredith and Mary Meredith.

(Signed) Patrick A. Nugent.

From the Marriage Record Book

"James Barry and Margaret Power were joined in marriage July 27, 1851. Witnesses were Mathias Crotty and Eleanor Kennedy.

(Signed) Patrick A. Nugent.

"Andrew Barragh and Elizabeth Kavanagh were joined in marriage February 8, 1852. Witnesses were Andrew McKenna and Eleanor McKenna.

(Signed) Patrick A. Nugent.

"Edward Mullen and Elizabeth McCloskey were joined in marriage July 27, 1852. Witnesses were James McCloskey, John Garrity, Anna Redmond, Marie McElhenny, Elizabeth McElhenny

Signed) J. C. McGinnis.

FROM THE CEMETERY RECORDS

John Callihan, Born Ireland 5-28-5 - Interment July 21, 1866

Section B.V.M., Lot 15

William Hollowell, Undertaker

(Signed) R. Kinahan.

First entry in account book, Cemetery:

July 20, Revenue from Parish — \$250.50.

Conshohocken 6-0911 - 6-3650 - 6-3651

Best Wishes

Samuel W. DeMedio



REALTOR



529 FAYETTE STREET

CONSHOHOCKEN, PA.

FULL LINE OF INSURANCE

FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS

Names of those confirmed in the Church of Saint Matthew in the town of Conshohocken, July 27, 1852, by John Nepomucene Neuman, Bishop of Philadelphia:

Thomas Moran

Daniel Leahy

Joseph Burke

John Clinch

Edward Downy

Michael Geoghegan

George Tracey

James Clinch

Elizabeth Ann Tracey

Anna Frances Murphy

Frances Cecelia Manigans

Maria Ann Brown

Catharine Teresa Downey

Eleanor Dorothy Conway

Maria Anna Carney

Maria Anna Teresa Tracey

Maria McKenna

Sarah Joanna Brown

Catharine Dorothea Tracey

Maria Meredith

Elizabeth Maria Horey

LAY TEACHERS IN ST. MATTHEW'S 1865-1915

PRINCIPALS

*Peter Bolger—1865-1875

*Thomas F. Kennedy—1875-1879

*Edward McDonald—1879-1890

*Bernard F. Corrigan—1890-1904

Michael J. Kehoe—1904-1915

LAY TEACHERS

*Mary Ella McCullough (Mrs. George Tracey)

*Cora Shaw

*Bessie O'Brien

*Julia Quinn

*Catharine McCann

*Mary Maguire (Mrs. Patrick Dugan)

*Ida McCullough

*Jane Burns (Mrs. Daniel Kennedy)

*Mary Ann McDermott

*Known to be deceased

Charles D. Heavey

WRECKER OF BUILDINGS

USED BUILDING MATERIALS

SINCE 1912

35TH & RIDGE AVENUE

Philadelphia 32

RAcliffe 5-8787 - 5-8788

- * Julia Malloy (Mrs. William Hogan)
- * Elizabeth Ryan
- * Annie Ryan
- * Sallie D. O'Neill
- * Elizabeth Scanlon
- * Julia O'Brien
- * Laura Moore (Mrs. Harry McGovern)
- * Alice Kelly (Mrs. Frank Bonner)
- * Catharine Harper (Mrs. John Ford)
- * Annie Tiernan
- Sarah Naylor
- * Mary Murray (Mrs. Patrick Carroll)
- * Ella McCall (Mrs. James Heston)
- * Minnie Forrest (Mrs. James Scanlon)
- Mary Anne Collins (Mrs. Frank McGovern)
- * Lizzie Welsh
- * Isabel McCoy
- * Elizabeth O'Neill (Mrs. Thomas F. McCoy)
- * Margaret R. O'Neill
- * Teresa Kennedy
- Elizabeth Corrigan (Mrs. Charles O'Hara)
- * Margaret Corrigan (Mrs. John Mansfield)
- * Johanna Kelly (Mrs. John J. Reilly)
- Julia Leary (Sister Rita Dolores, Sisters of St. Joseph)
- Mary Redmond
- Annie Redmond
- * Mary McDonald
- * Isabella Gallagher (Mrs. Leo Wenner)
- Elizabeth Tole (Mrs. Frank Costello)
- Nellie Coyne (Mrs. Augustus Ruser)
- Katherine Dougherty (Mrs. Charles Dillon)
- Isabella Gallagher (Mrs. Edward Dougherty)
- Mary D. Casey
- * Mary Corrigan
- * Rose McLernon (Mrs. Timothy Foley)
- Mary Bradigan
- * Estelle O'Byrne (Mrs. Wm. McGovern)
- Estella Lynch (Mrs. Harry Pollard)
- Mary Lanahan
- Annie English Kelly (Mrs. Louis Moore)
- Elizabeth G. Collins
- Margaret F. Daly
- Alice R. McGonigal (Mrs. Harry Barrett)
- * Known to be deceased.

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AND TRUCKS

Direct Factory Dealer

DODGE and PLYMOUTH

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Conshohocken, Pa.

Phone: CONshohocken 6-2475



SENIORS IN ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

Carrying the burden of Catholic Christian Education for the first fifty years in St. Matthew's School, were these lay teachers. Many of them gave the best years of their lives for the cause of Catholic Education, and all contributed graciously and without reserve their very best efforts in the interest of the students, loyal sons and daughters of St. Matthew's. If we might be pardoned one personal reference, Miss Sallie D. O'Neill, of happy memory, stands out singularly for length of service and the conspicuous devotion and fidelity she so well exemplified for more than a generation at the High School portal. One can hardly reminisce without thinking of her, and the thought that gave inspiration to this devoted band "They that instruct many unto justice shall shine like stars for all eternity." Nor could one speak of Sallie O'Neill without thinking of Teresa Kennedy and Isabel McCoy alike indelibly written in the annals.

Conshohocken 3533

Universal Technical Testing Laboratories, Inc.

Industrial X-Ray Inspection

618 Maple Street

Wm. J. Duffy

Conshohocken, Pa.

ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL—TO-DAY

Here are to be found the children of Christ learning about God as well as about man, in contact with eternity as well as with the world. Here religion is an essential part of education; it is not merely an adjunct to instruction in other subjects, but the center about which these are grouped and the spirit by which they are permeated. This, in brief, is the reason for our Parochial Schools.

As the early progress of St. Matthew's Schools depended largely upon the loyalty and devotion of Pastor, Principal and teaching staff, so St. Matthew's of to-day is deeply grateful to the beloved teaching community of St. Joseph as the Sisters carry on in the great work of Catholic Christian Education; grateful indeed to Mother M. Katharine, the first Religious Principal; to Mother M. DeChantal, during whose term of six years St. Matthew's was accredited by the State; to Mother M. Evangelia; to Mother M. Ambrosine;



JUNIORS IN ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

FRIENDS OF ST. MATTHEW'S



BENTLEY HARRIS MFG. CO.

C & D BATTERIES, Inc.

COOPERS CREEK CHEMICAL CORPORATION



SOPHOMORES IN ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL



FRESHMEN IN ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL

FRIENDS OF ST. MATTHEW'S



VALLEY FORGE CEMENT CO.

WALKER OF CONSHOHOCKEN

ALAN WOOD STEEL COMPANY



EIGHTH GRADE PUPILS

to Mother Augusta Marie, Mother Aida Maria and to the present Mother Elizabeth, with her staff of twenty-two sisters who have served the children and the parish for the past thirty-six years. Without ever a thought of self, having left all for the greater glory of God, these good Sisters continue to give their best for the children under their care, exercising an enobling influence over their young lives, and "with their hand in God's" cultivating in the hearts of our children a deep reverence for truth, making possible a closer approach to its Supreme Source. There is no greater love than this; their lives are laid at the feet of the Master, a loving sacrifice; their only earthly guerdon a white stone in God's acre and a forgotten name.

The original staff of Sisters comprised twelve; children registered 430 in 1915. There are now twenty-three Sisters and 1022 students registered.

FRIENDS OF ST. MATTHEW'S



LEE RUBBER AND TIRE CORP.

MERION WORSTED MILLS

PHILADELPHIA STEEL AND IRON CO.

PHILADELPHIA UNIFORM CO., Inc.



SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADES

ATHLETICS

Besides scholastic attainments, St. Matthew's School has always stood high equally on the field of athletic endeavor. Her athletes have not only borne high the standards of St. Matthew's, but have gone forth to higher institutions of learning, bringing laurels to their school and themselves. They have starred not only as students, but formed the backbone of many of the teams that brought glory to Conshohocken when professional football received early impetus here.

Severely handicapped by the need of gymnasium, athletic field, equipment, and until recent years, a regular coach, the School must be commended for the progress made. None of the taxes paid in the borough is available for athletic or other school work, nor is any asked. So, to the pride and the loyalty of the student body, aided by the generosity of the parishioners, went the responsibility of maintaining their high rank in school athletics.

In football, the teams were usually victorious and greatly feared in competition with schools in their own class, while they won admiration and respect wherever they went for their courageous and plucky spirit against

SPONSORS



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Gaul
 Mr. and Mrs. William E. Edwards
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Leary
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray A. Blake
 Mr. and Mrs. John P. Paskel
 Mr. John Kuczynski
 Mr. John J. McNamara (dec.)
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Lawler
 Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Romano
 Mr. and Mrs. Watson Koldys
 Mr. and Mrs. Leonard A. Talone
 Dr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Labowskie
 Mr. Francis J. Desimone
 Miss Florence Fisher
 Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Dennis
 Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Ratkowski
 Mr. and Mrs. Benj. F. Snyder
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Cashore
 Mary and Maryanna Wood



SIXTH GRADE

ST. MATTHEW'S HIGH SCHOOL BAND

It has come to be a recognized fact that adding much to the spirit of the athletic contest, and an almost essential adjunct, is a band. And to St. Matthew's, Father Murphy has given a Band of which everyone is justly proud. Composed of sixty girls from the St. Matthew's High School, they appear at most of the Parish functions, as well as the football games, where their cheer-leaders whip up enthusiasm among contenders and spectators. None of them had ever handled musical instruments, yet after only seven months of training and practice they made their initial public appearance, a feat unparalleled. They are nattily attired in the blue and white of St. Matthew's and in their precise drill and marching modestly bear the laurels of their Alma Mater. For the Pastor, this is a dream come true; for the parents and loyal supporters a real accomplishment which they acclaim with a pardonable pride.

PATRONS



Margaret Berryman
Joseph G. Blake
Patricia A. Blake
Rae A. Blake
Louise V. Brown
James Burnett
Dennis Burt, Jr.
Anthony Cianelli
Mrs. E. F. Clark
James Coonan
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Connelly
Margaret H. Cooper
Margaret Daly
Madeleine Daly
Mary Daly
Mark Devereux (dec.)
Philomena D'Orsaneo
Anna A. Dundon
Peter J. Galie
Mrs. Thomas J. Gaynor
Elizabeth M. Gaynor
Margaret K. Gaynor
Mrs. James E. Gibbs
Joseph C. Hanlon
Bessie O. Harkins
Mrs. John Havener
William J. Keefe

Stephen Keeley
Margaret J. Keenan
John Keistan
Mary Keistan
Margaret S. Kilcoyn
Mary H. & Alberta E. Lanahan
James B. Leonard
Lillian McLaughlin
Hannah G. Meaney
Katherine J. Mills
John J. Moser
Anna Mulholland
Mary A. Nugent
Edward A. O'Brien
Ann Pettine
Bridget Quinn
Mary Rath
Dominic A. Ruggiero
Francis J. Ruggiero
Samuel J. Salvia
Louise G. Schank
Louis Scharff
George D. Shoemaker
Bridget M. Stemple
Marie E. Sweeney
James Traill
Joseph A. Wertz



FIFTH & SIXTH GRADES



FIFTH GRADE



FOURTH GRADE



SECOND GRADE



THIRD GRADE



FIRST GRADE

St. Clair Hotel

JAS. J. RATH, Prop.

21 East Elm Street

Conshohocken, Pa.

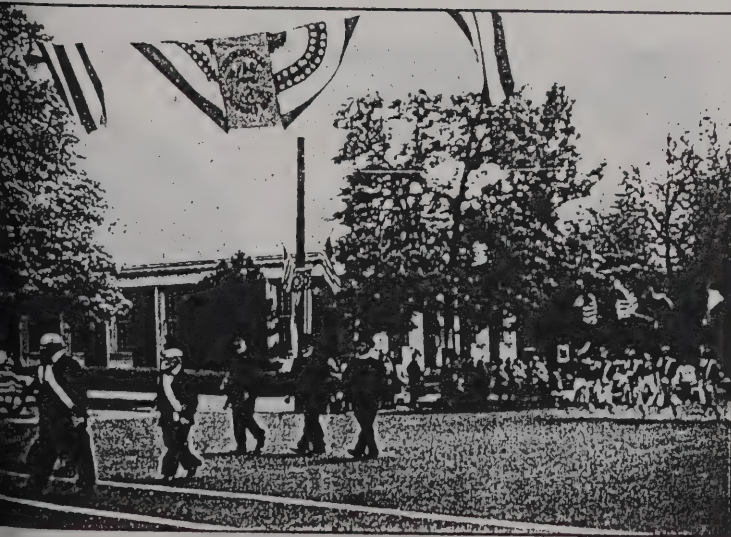
ST. MATTHEW'S SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

Aside from what has been accomplished by St. Matthews in a spiritual way, in the training of her children, in the fine type of citizens going from its portals, St. Matthew's has served in all the years of its existence, every individual taxpayer in Conshohocken and community in a very substantial manner. For besides paying their share of taxes for the support of the Borough Schools, St. Matthew's people are, without assistance from any source outside their own ranks, educating their children at their own expense, at a tremendous saving to the taxpaying public.

Let us examine the figures and the record. The published attendance in the Conshohocken High School, March 1951, is 1249. The budget for 1951-52 is \$329,351.11, or a cost per child per year of \$263.70. In St. Matthew's the attendance is 1022, March 1951, which on the basis of \$263.70 per child means a net saving to the taxpayers in the Borough of approximately \$269,500.00. If assessed, this would mean an increase in the tax rate for school purposes of about 22 mills. Well over a quarter of a million dollars is thus saved annually to the taxpayer, a gratuity of St. Matthew's Parish. And this saving is reckoned on operating costs only, without any thought whatever to the cost of additional buildings that would be required if the burden of educating an additional 1022 children were placed on the shoulders of the School District.



FOURTH DEGREE MEMBERS of K. OF C.



FATHERS SCHUSTER, MURPHY AND KINIRY

RELIGIOUS SERVICES MARK CONSHOHOCKEN CENTENNIAL OPENING

10,000 RESIDENTS OF AREA OFFER PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF BOROUGH
AT TWO DEMONSTRATIONS

Approximately 10,000 Conshohocken area residents offered praise and thanksgiving to God for the development and progress of the Borough of Conshohocken at two impressive religious demonstrations which opened the week-long observance of the community's 100th anniversary.

Solemn benediction of the Holy Eucharist at a temporary altar constructed in the center of Community Field and a brilliant address on the history of the Catholic churches of Conshohocken and world topics by the Rev. John F. Rowan, instructor of Sacred Scripture at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, highlighted the service of the five Catholic parishes, held at 3 P. M. More than 7,000 were present.

Catholic Service

Parishioners of the three borough Catholic churches, St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, and Ss. Cosmas and Damian, and two neighboring parishes, St. Gertrude's of West Conshohocken, and St. Philip's of Barren Hill, marched up Fayette St. to Community Field for the benediction. It was the largest religious procession in the borough's history.

St. Matthew's High School all-girl band and the La Salle High School Boys Band, Phila., supplied the martial music. The parade was led by a color guard carrying the Papal and American flags escorted by the Fourth Degree members of the Conshohocken Council, Knights of Columbus, in full regalia and swords.

In these times when Communistic nations and even professors are teaching that there is no God, the Catholic church turns to her Master, Jesus Christ, and worships Him as the eternal Truth, Monsignor Rowan declared in his address before benediction.

The Catholic churches must continue its guiding principles and teachings, opposing the unnatural practices which threaten to destroy American home-life, he said, pointing out the evils of divorce, mercy killing, and communistic anarchy.

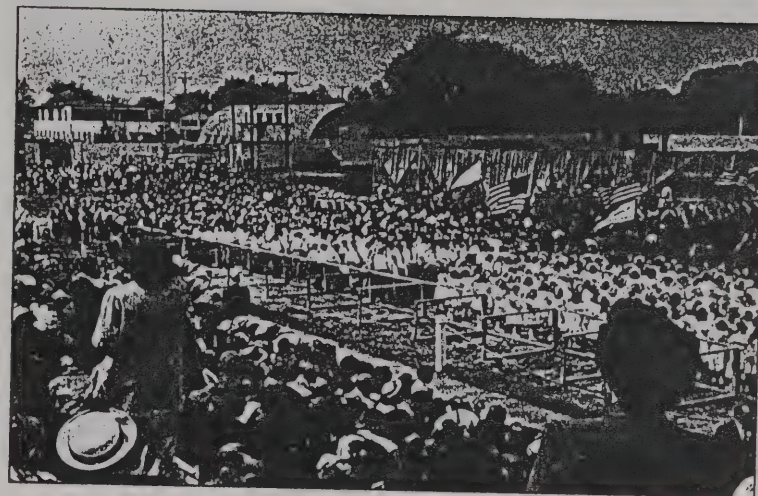
A colorful note was added to the parade by approximately 250 girls of St. Mary's Parochial School who were dressed in the pretty costumes of their parents' homeland. They carried small American and Polish flags.

Colors and banners of several of the veterans' organizations, Italian and Polish fraternal societies, and other church groups, were also included in the line of march. Members also marched together in units, while hundreds of other parishioners also marched up the borough's main thoroughfare from their respective churches.

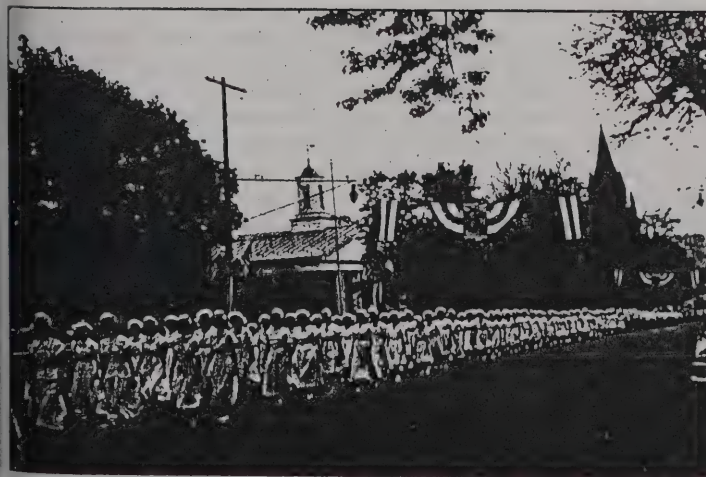




ST. MATTHEW'S GIRLS BAND



BENEDICTION AT COMMUNITY FIELD



ST. MATTHEW'S PARISHIONERS

A large group of young girls and boys from St. Matthew's Parochial School, who made their First Holy Communion in the morning, approximately 200 other grade school girls wore white dresses, also participated. They were dressed white. St. Matthew's High girls wore their blue and white school uniforms.

Several uniformed Girl and Boy Scouts, many from St. Matthew's Troop No. 8, Valley Forge Council, were also in the line of march.

The Rev. George L. Murphy, Pastor of St. Matthew's Church, welcomed the huge assemblage. The Rev. Victor Strumia, Pastor of Ss. Cosmas and Damian, was deacon at the benediction, and the Rev. Sebastian Jerzak, Pastor of St. Mary's, subdeacon. Other clergy of the five parishes participated at the service.

St. Mary's choir sang the responses and led the singing of several hymns, accompanied by the church organ which was mounted beside the temporary altar, which was decorated with a brown and red canopy, and palms. Playing of the national anthem opened the program.

ST. MATTHEW'S CENTENNIAL

The ceremonies attendant to the Centennial Celebration were begun with Solemn High Mass at 11:00 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, May 3rd, 1951. Monsignor Francis Furey, Rector of St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook, presided at the Solemn Mass, and delivered the sermon. Father Murphy, our administrator, was celebrant; Very Rev. George J. Collins, C.S.Sp. Rector of the Holy Ghost Missionary College, Cornwall Heights, was deacon and Rev. Edmund J. Rafferty, a member of the faculty of St. James High School, Chester, and a graduate of St. Matthew's, was sub-Deacon. Rev. Joseph W. Kavanagh, Rector of the Church of The Transfiguration, Phila., and former Administrator of St. Matthew's, was Master of Ceremonies.

It was a very beautiful sight, as the procession wended its way from the rectory to the Church, with the members of the clergy, altar boys, the Color Guard of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and the ushers in formal attire; they proceeded to the sanctuary preceding the Mass. Throngs crowded the Church; more than fifty visiting priests were present; the floral decorations on the altars and about the sanctuary gave a tone of festivity, fittingly observant of the grand occasion; if no other were to follow this celebration would have left the necessary indelible impress, and a lasting memory of our Centenary. Special music was sung under the direction of Miss Rose A. Hoey, organist and chorister. But this was not all.

The following morning (Monday) the 4th of June, a Mass for the deceased members of the Parish, was celebrated.

At 7:00 P.M. this same day, upwards of four hundred members of the Parish, including many former residents, thronged the auditorium, where a sumptuous banquet was served. This will be long remembered. All of the Centennial ceremonies, planned by Father Murphy, were brought to happy conclusion through the personal direction of Father John P. Kiniry, Assistant Rector. No detail was overlooked. At the banquet, Father Kiniry proved a witty and versatile toastmaster. His introductions, in happy vein, promoted the required mirth and joviality to bring everyone present to realize that this was one happy family, here in St. Matthew's. The address of welcome was made by Father Murphy, who spoke of the great faith dominant throughout the parish, and what this priceless gift meant in these days of national peril; of the thoroughness of the pioneers and the priests of St. Matthew's in the establishment and dissemination of the faith in this section. Father Murphy also stressed the outstanding Catholic family life about which he had often remarked, prevalent throughout the Parish. "Ideal Christian family life, as it exists in St. Matthew's", said Father Murphy, "is most essential to our national life as it is to the success and happiness and contentment of our individual lives. I believe that family life in this community is of an exceptionally high standard. This is due to the fact, mainly, that the people of St. Matthew's have a strong faith." Father Murphy congratulated the mem-



CENTENNIAL BANQUET
MICHAEL J. KEHOE, FRs. JACKLIN, MURPHY & KINIRY

bers of the Parish present, as well as the visitors and former parishioners, on the centennial celebration, and wished God-speed for the individual members and the Parish as a whole, for the years ahead.

Very Reverend Edward G. Jacklin, S. J., President of St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, guest orator, pointed out that "St. Matthew's launched one of the earliest grade schools in the arch-diocese, eighty-eight years ago, and eighty-two years ago opened one of the first, if not the first Catholic High School in this Arch-diocese." The distinguished educator paid tribute to the early pastors, Father Nugent, Father McGinniss and Father Kinahan, Pastor for forty-two years, for their "courage and vision," overcoming all of the vicissitudes and difficulties that fraught their early efforts from the year 1851. "The solidity of the faith implanted must be attributed in no small measure to the efforts of all, particularly to those of Father Kinahan, for he had opened the St. Matthew's first grade school in the basement of the church in 1863, its first parochial High School in 1869, and erected a school building in 1872."

Father Jacklin reviewed the important part that the Catholic Church has always played in education, stating that "there is hardly a University in

Europe that was not founded by the Catholic Church. And far beyond the confines of Europe, the influence of the Church was seen in the educational institutions throughout the world. In Mexico the Catholic Church established a college many years before other attempts were made towards higher education."

"Despite the lack of State aid, and despite the double taxation required to support both public and parochial schools, you have built here in St. Matthew's a splendid educational structure. There is nothing more important to-day than the Catholic education of youth for God and Country."

Burgess Edmund K. Williams and his wife were seated at the speakers' table. Introduced, the Burgess spoke briefly, extending his congratulations to the Parish and expressed the appreciation of the Borough for "the great work done by the Church." He dwelt too on the big influence that St. Matthew's Parish, (organized one year after the Borough was incorporated), had been in the development of Conshohocken.

Mr. Michael J. Kehoe, Principal of St. Matthew's, from 1904 to 1915, chosen to represent the laity, spoke as follows:

"One hundred years have elapsed since the establishment of St. Matthew's Parish. Four generations of children have worshipped here, and we gather to-night as representatives of these generations to indicate by our presence our love and veneration for all that Holy Mother Church has done for us during the century that has passed.

One hundred years of service! What stupendous faith; what glorious deeds of sacrifice! Who can recount the blessings, the graces, the comforts, the inspirations, the consolation and the strength that has been poured into the hearts and souls of the faithful by the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the sacraments, the loving visits to Our Lord in the tabernacle, and the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the living and the dead!

We are grateful to Almighty God for having lived to see this great day; thankful to our parents and the early pioneers who planted the cross of Christ in this region; they bequeathed to this Parish a posterity deeply imbued with the principles of the Gospel; they left a race of children true to the memory of their parents.

We are grateful to the memory of the priests, the God-given priests for the great depth of our faith. It is from our priests that we hear the word of God; by them we are received into the true fold; from them we receive absolution from the sins committed against the Majesty of the Almighty God, our Creator; with them we offer the sacrifice of Calvary. From the very moment of our birth until the last moment of our lives, it is the priest who makes available for all mankind the graces of Almighty God to guide us safely on our way through life, as well as to insure the safety of our arrival into the Eternal Kingdom.

We are grateful to the lay teachers, who for fifty years carried the burden of Catholic Christian Education in St. Matthew's; we are grateful to the good Sisters of St. Joseph, without whose daily sacrifice our schools could not now hope to operate.

My dear friends, it is a far cry from those days in the early 1860's when saintly Father Kinahan of happy memory, gathered about him his little group constituting the early classes of St. Matthew's, and to-day, when we have a total enrollment of well over one thousand students. St. Matthew's Parish is not only educating her children as Holy Mother Church would have them educated and trained, but by so doing, its gift to the taxpayers of this community is well over a quarter of a million dollars each and every year.

And all of this, my friends, because and in consequence of this precious gift called faith. There is nothing in this world comparable to the gift of our holy faith. Your faith and mine, it is the same faith which Our Divine Lord revealed when He walked amongst men; your faith and mine, it is the same faith which the Apostles preached to the Gentiles; your faith and mine, it is the same faith for which the martyrs suffered and died in the arena; your faith and mine, it is the same faith which inspired the saints of God; your faith and mine, it is the same faith which has come down to us through the centuries that have passed, unchanged and unchangeable, as it will go down through the ages to come until time is no more.

It is my great pleasure, and I deem it an honor and a privilege, on behalf of every member of this Parish, to convey to you, Father Murphy, and the present priests of St. Matthew's, and through you to the priests who have gone before, our heartfelt gratitude for the great depth of the faith in our souls. The golden threads of your and their priestly services are bright and brilliant in the ecclesiastical tapestry that is St. Matthew's. In return, may we offer our assurance of continued loyalty, and our prayers for you, our neighbors, one another, with a sincere "God love you!"

Looking backward with joy, we rejoice in the blessings, the graces and the holy traditions that are St. Matthew's. Looking forward with hope, we pray that the Parochial faith and deeds of St. Matthew's and our loyalty to Holy Mother Church and her priests, will increase and deepen ten thousand fold throughout the years to come."





HIS EMINENCE
D. CARDINAL DOUGHERTY, D.D.
(Requiescat in Pace)

FATHER O'DONNELL

While plans and preparations were under way for the celebration of St. Matthew's Centenary, word was received from St. Joseph Villa that Father O'Donnell's health was failing, and he seemed unable to respond to treatment. The priests of the Parish visited him, the last rites of the Church were administered, and then on the evening of May 22nd the Angel of Death bade his soul take flight to the Heavenly Mansion prepared for his eternal years. Father O'Donnell was dead. Sorrow filled the hearts of the people of the community, his parishioners, to whom he had so lovingly endeared himself. His funeral was held on Monday morning, May 28th. Rev. Francis Kane was celebrant of the Solemn Requiem Mass; Rev. James Boylan of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary was Deacon; Rev. James Coyle, former curate sub-Deacon; Rev. Joseph Kavanagh former Administrator, Master of Ceremonies; Rev. Joseph King, formerly in residence here, preached the sermon. Interment was made in Holy Cross Cemetery. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Scarcely had the shock of Father O'Donnell's passing reached the confines of the Parish, when announcement was made of the death of His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, at his Episcopal residence, Cardinal Ave. and City Line Ave., at 9:30 A.M. on the morning of May 31st. It was the 61st Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and he had celebrated Mass at 6:30 A.M.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LIFE OF HIS EMINENCE, THE CARDINAL

Born: Girardville, Pa., August 16th, 1865.

Studies: Local schools of Girardville.

St. Mary's College, Montreal.

St. Charles' Seminary, Overbrook,

North American College, Rome.

Ordained: May 31, 1890, by Cardinal Parocchi, at the Arch-Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome.

First Mass: June 1st, 1890, at the altar of chair of St. Peter in the Basilica of St. Peter.

Returned to Philadelphia, where he taught at St. Charles' Seminary, 1890 - 1903.

Noted Linguist—taught Latin, Greek, French and Hebrew. Later taught dogmatic theology.

June 14, 1903: Consecrated Bishop of Nueva Segovia, Philippine Islands by Cardinal Satolli, in Basilica of SS. John and Paul, Rome.

June 7, 1916—Installed as Bishop of Buffalo.

July 9, 1918—Came to Philadelphia as its Archbishop, succeeding Archbishop Prendergast. At his enthronement on July 10th, Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, presided.

May 10, 1921—Elevated to the Cardinalate in Rome By Pope Benedict XV.

61 years a priest, 48 years a Bishop, 30 years a Cardinal, 33 years as Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Immediately on the announcement of the death of His Eminence, messages of condolence poured into the Chancery Office from all parts of the world. From our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, and from the President of the United States; from Italy, France, England, Ireland, Canada, Cuba and Australia; from people of every race, creed and color, and from persons of every rank and condition of life. For in his passing the Catholic Church lost a great priest and Bishop; America lost a sincere patriot; Philadelphia, a highly respected citizen.

On Thursday, June 7th, in the presence of four Cardinals, eleven Archbishops and almost two score of Bishops; hundreds of Monsignori, Priests, Sisters, Brothers and officials representing the Nation, the State of Pennsylvania, and the City of Philadelphia, was celebrated Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul.

In his sermon, Most Rev. Hugh L. Lamb, D.D., Administrator of the Philadelphia Arch-diocese, paid tribute to His Eminence "who has left the ranks of the Church Militant and joined the ranks of the Church Triumphant. The great success that attended his difficult task as Bishop in the Philippines for thirteen years had proved him a man of strong faith, iron will and consummate prudence." Continued Bishop Lamb, "His life was spent in the service of Christ and he gave all the energies of his body and soul to the welfare of the souls entrusted to his care. It was a full life, it was a hard life, not unlike the life of St. Paul the Apostle who rejoiced in being able to suffer something for the Master Whom he deeply loved. We are confident that this modern Apostle who followed the example of the Apostle of the Gentiles could also say at the end of his long life: 'I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of glory which the Lord, who is a just Judge, will give unto me on the last day.'"

Pending the appointment of his successor as Arch-Bishop, Most Rev. Hugh L. Lamb, D.D., V.G., who is Bishop-delegate of the newly created Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., was named Administrator. The final services for His Eminence took place Thursday afternoon, June 7th, when his body was carried to a crypt beneath the high altar of the Cathedral and there sealed in a tomb along with the other deceased Arch-Bishops and Bishops of the See of Philadelphia. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. And may that same peace be our own in the life to come.

Soon you and we shall sleep. It may even be that we shall dream and

dreaming live again the golden hours that may not come save in dreams. Thus dreaming, we shall rejoice in the company of the men and women of this Parish, and a new day will come and we shall know it was only a dream—or was it? There is a Communion of Saints. We do live in Christ and in Him there is no death, no past, no future, only a present. For us that present is less than instantaneous, for Him it is more than eternal. It is no dream, it is the only reality.

JOSEPH KENNEDY

Joseph P. Kennedy, son of Patrick J. Kennedy and his wife, Marie Byrnes Kennedy, was born in Harmonville, in 1881, later moving with the family to Spring Mill Avenue, Conshohocken.

Joseph was graduated from St. Matthew's High School in the Class of 1896, and indicated early desire to enter the Seminary of St. Charles and pursue his studies for the priesthood, as had done his illustrious brother, later Archbishop Thomas F. Kennedy. Joseph was then but fifteen years of age.

After completion of two years of preparatory work in St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, in 1898 Joseph entered the Seminary of St. Charles, Overbrook, remaining in his studies for two years. He too made early impress of a bright scholastic, and was sent to Rome and the American College, there to complete his studies for the holy priesthood.

His brother, Dr. Kennedy, was named Rector of the American College in Rome in 1901, proving an inspiration to the younger Joseph, as to every other member and student of the American College. The change in climatic conditions encountered in Italy by American students, proved a challenge to the college authorities, and the preservation of health among the student body consequently a vexatious problem indeed. At the close of the school term, Joseph Kennedy occasionally found opportunity to return to America, finding stimulus in his visit to return and continue further studies in the Holy City. His ordination was set for June 1908, and his family here planned to be present. About the first of the new year, however, Joseph was stricken seriously ill, pneumonia developed, and on January 6th, 1908, five months prior to his ordination, he was dead.

His body lies buried with that of his illustrious brother, His Excellency Thomas F. Kennedy, in the North American College Chapel, in Campo Santo Cemetery, just outside the walls of Rome. Archbishop Kennedy died in August, 1917. Side by side their dust mingles with that of the early Christians, pioneers in the Church proper. Here in St. Matthew's Cemetery, also awaiting the judgment, lie the mortal remains of his parents, and two sisters, Margaret and Teresa, the latter a teacher in St. Matthew's for many years under Father Kinahan. A niece, Florence Fisher, survives, the last local tie between this family and this parish.

REV. DANIEL J. KEHOE, D.D.

Daniel J. Kehoe was a graduate of St. Matthew's High School, Class 1891. In September of this year, he entered the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook, where he continued his studies for the priesthood, until



REV. DANIEL J. KEHOE, D.D.

1895. He was always a deep student, and the Seminary authorities recognized his early aptitude and a potential power in the priesthood. He was sent to Rome, where, at the very fountain-head of Christianity, he was ordained to the holy Priesthood by His Eminence Cardinal Respighi, in 1901.

Father Kehoe continued his studies for one year, in the Holy City, receiving his Doctorate in 1902, when he returned to his homeland. He was stationed at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Philadelphia for one year, when he was named Professor of Moral Theology at St. Charles' Seminary, where he had made his early studies. Dr. Kehoe is best remembered for his genial personality, his power in the pulpit, his capable demeanor in the classroom where he won the love and respect of the student body. Priests today celebrating their golden jubilees speak affectionately of the devotion and thoroughness of Dr. Kehoe in the Seminary.

The office of the priesthood is that of the Church, to teach and preach the Gospel. Dr. Kehoe taught his classes by day and through the length and breadth of the Diocese his services were eagerly sought in the pulpit, when available. His indomitable spirit and earnestness gradually resulted in loss of health, and he was obliged to relinquish his duties at the Seminary in an effort to regain his health. But events proved he had waited too long, for two years he sought to find the health necessary for him to continue in his service of the Master, but in vain. He died on May 25th, 1913. His remains lie interred in the family plot in St. Matthew's Cemetery, side by side with those of his parents, John and Ellen Irwin Kehoe, numbered among the early pioneers in this Parish.

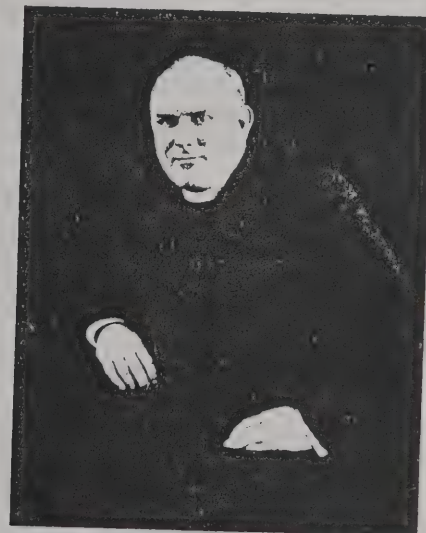
Parishioners Ordained To The Priesthood

REV. JOHN GRENSILL
REV. HENRY A. NAYLON

REV. HENRY A. DUGAN
REV. JOHN QUINN



REV. RICHARD KELLY



REV. FRANK HOEY



REV. FRANCIS J. QUINN



REV. EDMUND RAFFERTY



ALOYSIUS CONNELLY

ALOYSIUS CONNELLY, son of James and Margaret McLaughlin Connelly was born in Conshohocken, Pa., June 25, 1898. He attended St. Mathew's School and was graduated June 25, 1916 and entered St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pa., the following September to prepare for the priesthood.

Those who may reflect can recall the influenza epidemic of 1918. The excessive number of deaths developed a problem in the cemeteries. The students of St. Charles were called upon to dig graves in the Diocesan Cemeteries of Holy Cross, Holy Sepulchre, etc. In spite of exposure to this dreaded illness none of the students was stricken. Later some did suffer and Aloysius severest of all. He died March 6, 1920.

Altho he never attained the goal for which he was striving, nevertheless, we can understand the sincerity and genuine Christ-like purpose of his life. He was not permitted to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass but was given the opportunity to sacrifice himself in the name of Christ and did so. We say—may he rest in the peace which he most certainly gained as his reward.

SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, WHO ENTERED FROM ST. MATTHEW'S

SISTER MARIA SPONSA (Rita Marie Luskin)
SISTER M. ST. HENRY (Bernardine Jacoby)
SISTER MARGUERITE MARIE (Edith M. Coyne)
SISTER M. HELEN BERNADETTE (Margaret Lawless)

SISTERS OF MERCY

SISTER de CHANTEL (Sigg)
SISTER CHARLES BORROMEO (Sigg)
SISTER M. FELICITAS (O'Neill)

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTION

SISTER FRANCES JOSEPHINE (Palacio)

SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH, CHESTNUT HILL, WHO ENTERED FROM ST. MATTHEW'S

SISTER NAZARIA (Neary)	SISTER MIRIAM ELIZABETH (McCoy)
SISTER CLARE GENEVIEVE (Clinton)	SISTER STELLA GABRIEL (Hagan)
SISTER RITA DOLORES (O'Leary)	SISTER ANNE RAPHAEL (Watson)
SISTER CHARLES MARIE (Nugent)	SISTER PHILIP MARY (Kelly)
SISTER ST. ALICE (Mallen)	SISTER FRANCIS DOLORES (Meyers)
SISTER EMMANUEL MARIE (Gallagher)	SISTER MARY AUDREY (O'Connor)
SISTER LOUIS BERTRAND (Scharff)	SISTER DOMINICA (Watson)
SISTER MARGARET De SALES (Blanche)	SISTER CATHERINE DOROTHY (Murphy)
SISTER ALICE ELIZABETH (Moran)	SISTER EUPHROSINE (Murphy)
SISTER HELEN CATHERINE (Thwaite)	SISTER LEANDER (Poysden)
SISTER HELEN MARGUERITE (Coyle)	SISTER MIRIAM EDWARD (Fineran)

JAMES A. LYNCH

Realtor of Conshohocken

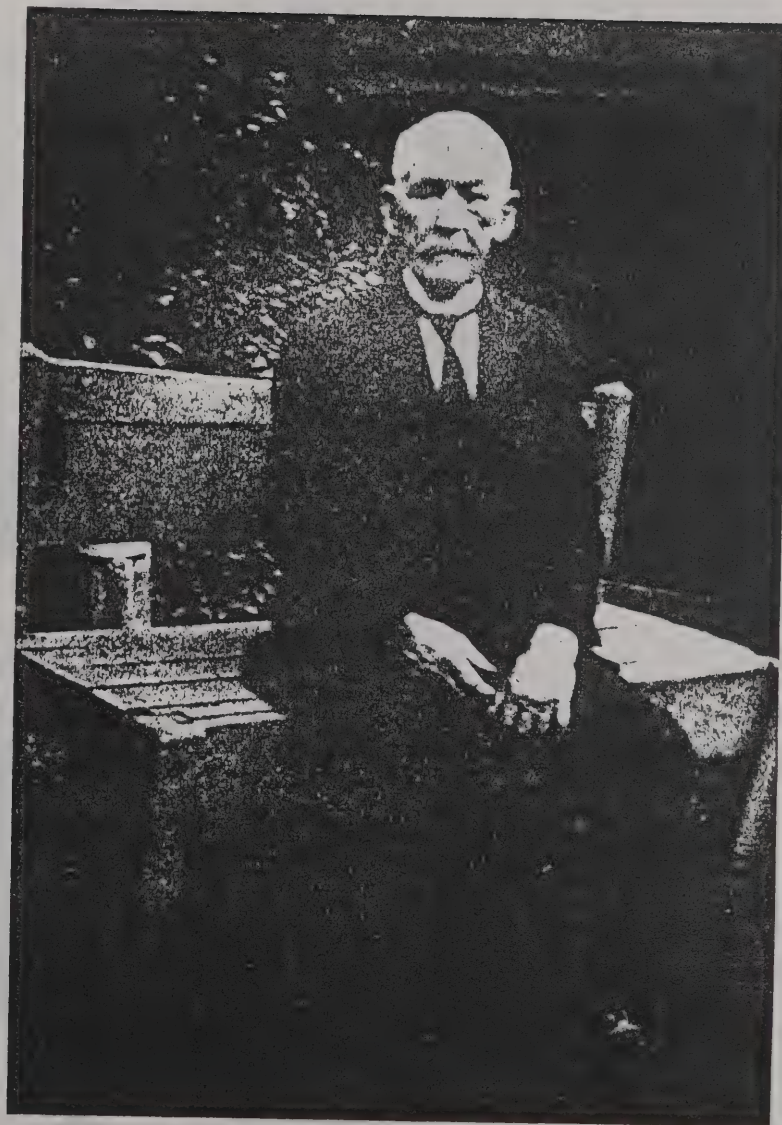
Insurance

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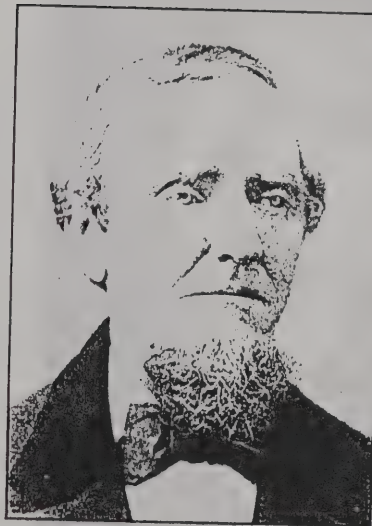
JOHN FINNEY

Plans of First Church Were Drawn up in His Shop on Harry Street

Chestnut Hill College and Mount Saint Joseph Academy

CHESTNUT HILL, PHILADELPHIA

EARLY PARISHIONERS



MR. AND MRS. PATRICK J. KENNEDY



VIEW OF FAYETTE STREET



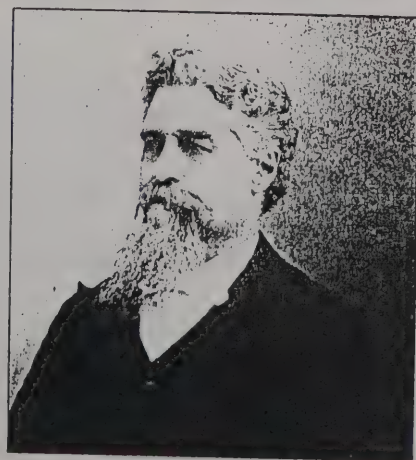
MRS. MICHAEL MOORE



JAMES TRACY



MRS. JAMES TRACY



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MRS. EVA KNECHT

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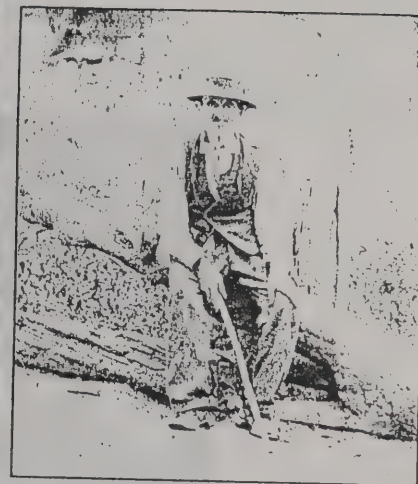
★ ★ ★

8 E. Second Avenue

Nicholas J. Romano, Prop. Conshohocken, Pa.



MRS. DARBY AND SISTER



BERNARD KEENAN



PARISHIONERS OF CONNAUGHTOWN

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The history of a Parish is centered about the first Pastor, and the dedication of the original Church, however large it might have been. The lives of later Pastors who administered the Parish over these years are the focal point of interest in the narrative of history. The school is the third factor in the chronology of the Parish.

History thus includes these stepping stones along the pathway of existence. The gaps between are seldom mentioned and our history would not be complete if some recognition were not given the purpose of and the people for whom the Parish was founded and who prided themselves in the continued maintenance and further development of a parish such as St. Matthew's.

The original or basic families from which this Parish developed have many descendants residing here and elsewhere today. As the years passed other families settled in Conshohocken and began another branch of the parochial family. Thus it is that today we could formulate a litany of names from before 1851 to the present day and in that way give a living history of St. Matthew's. Fear of neglecting or failing to note the name of a family in the proper sequence caused us to forego such an effort.

The records of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Deaths constitute the complete history of the people for these 100 years. They are faithfully kept, beginning with the small book in which the first Baptism is recorded and as numbers increased larger books were used and filled with a remarkable spiritual record of our people.

We have learned that the plans for the original Church were discussed and developed in Finney's Blacksmith Shop by several men.

There is no question in the minds of our Catholic people concerning the why or wherefore of the existence of a Catholic parish. We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus



BEGINNING OF CHRISTIANITY

Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



That we might practice this belief, local parishes are necessary where the seven sacraments may be administered to the individual parishioners over the years. We become Christians through the sacrament of Baptism which washes away the stain of original sin and are thus formally received into the Mystical Body of Christ.

As an infant possessing an immortal soul, we are thus safeguarded for eternity until we reach the age of reason. God-parents recited the Creed for us as infants. Once we have attained the accepted age of reason we speak for ourselves in the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation whereby—as the word implies—we confirm or strengthen what took place at Baptism.

Since we are now accountable for our own actions and thus any offenses against God, Jesus Christ, Son of God, our Divine Founder gave us the means of regaining the grace of God in the event that we do offend Him by breaking His laws.

The sacrament of Penance—or what is commonly known as Confession—is the next step in our religious life. This is immediately followed by reception of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist or Holy Communion. This is the very heart and life of our Catholic faith for we firmly believe that Christ is present in Holy Communion under the appearance of bread and wine, consecrated by the priest during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We do not look upon the Mass as an emulation of the Last Supper. We take Christ's words literally, "Take ye and eat all of this for this is my Body." "Take ye and drink ye all of this for this is my Blood of the New Testament which



BISHOP McCORMICK—APRIL 15, 1951

shall be shed for the remission of sins. Do this for a commemoration of me." Since this is the greatest single function in the life of any Catholic and is the highest form of worship we know, we are bound under pain of mortal sin to hear Mass on every Sunday and Holyday of obligation and thus fulfill the Third Commandment of God: Keep Holy the Sabbath Day.

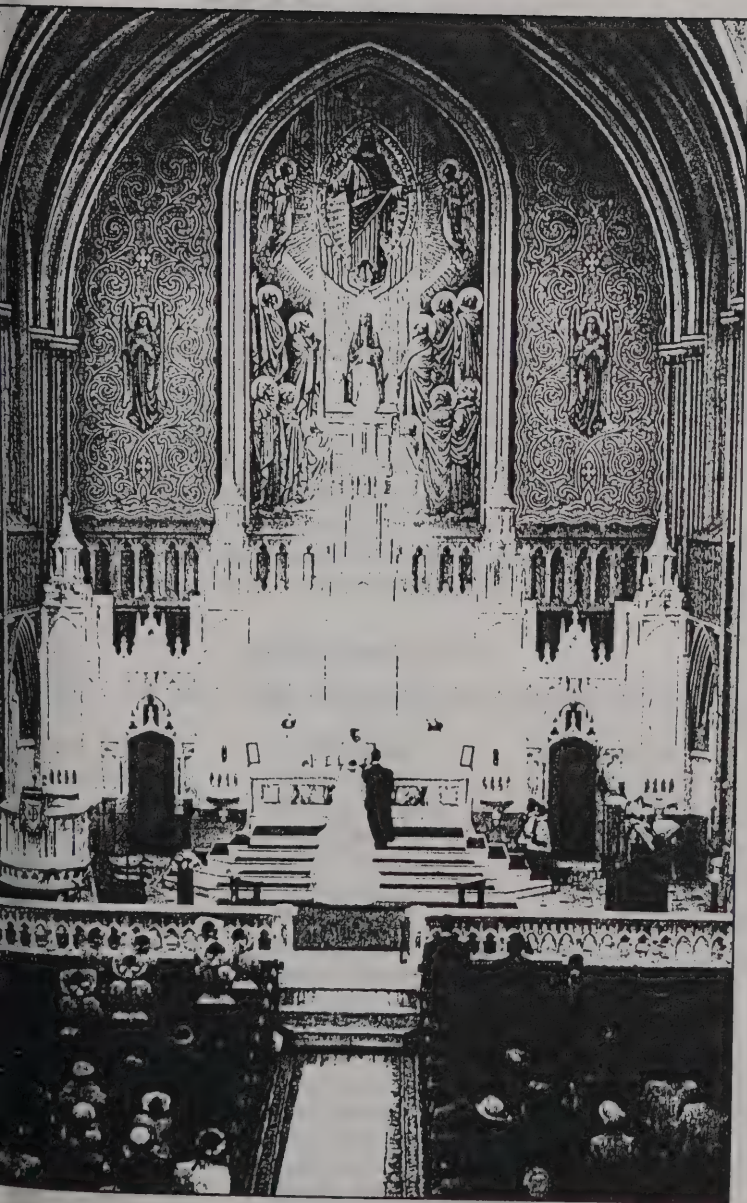
The means of propagating the human race and continuing the creation of God's plan for human souls is through marriage of men and women. This Sacrament is received before the altar of sacrifice dedicated to the worship of God. The priest as a witness before God hears the intention of those receiving this Sacrament expressed to him and before witnesses. He then hears the mutual contract from the man and woman accepting each other as husband and wife by a God-made bond which cannot be broken by any human power.

Every phase of human life is thus cared for through these five Sacraments and since all must eventually die, Our Divine Saviour did not fail to provide for sickness and danger of death through the Sacrament of Extreme Unction—the last anointing. This Sacrament is received whenever a person is in danger of death from sickness, wound, or accident. The grace of God is received and the person is resigned to God's Will to live or die as He decides. This Sacrament should be received when the recipient is in full control of his faculties that he might fully cooperate with the Grace of God which he is receiving.

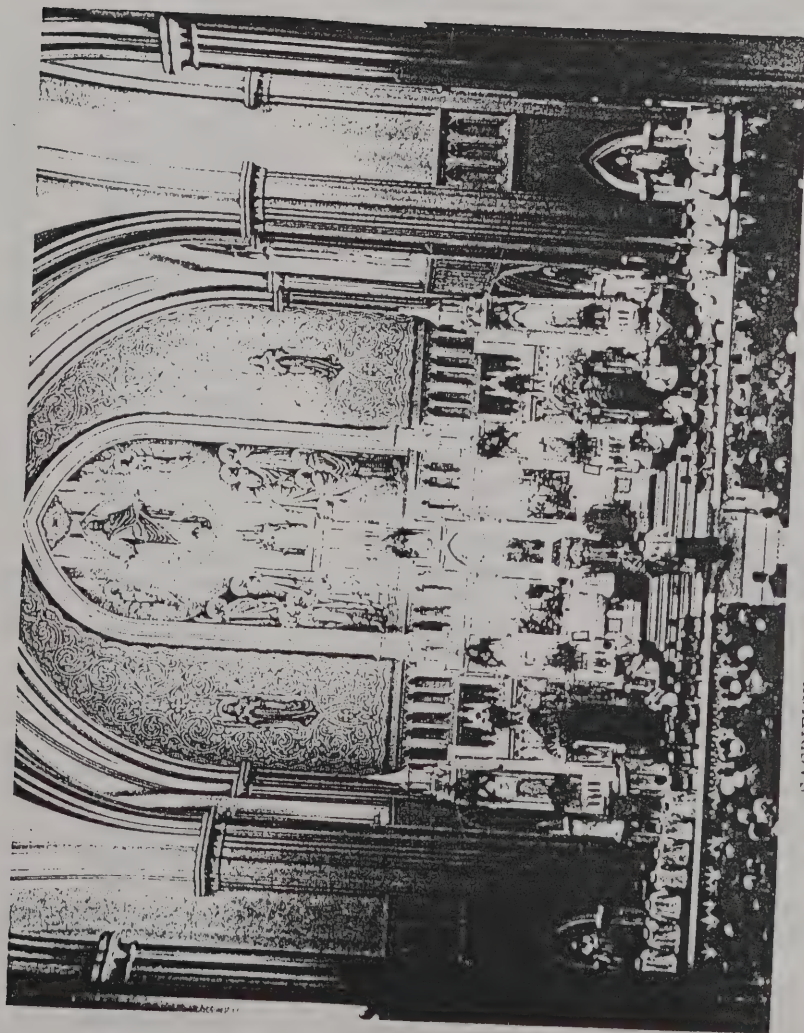
These Sacraments might have been neglected, if not forgotten entirely, had not Jesus Christ foreseen all the weaknesses of humanity. He provided the means through which these divinely instituted Sacraments would be perpetuated for all time by setting apart one Sacrament to care for the other six, which is the Sacrament of Holy Orders, whereby a man is properly ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ receiving this power of the priesthood handed down from the original twelve Apostles in unbroken succession to the present day.

Our Divine Founder laid the foundation of His Church upon Peter and the other Apostles. "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church." As He stated, "I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world" the Sacrament of Holy Orders secured His presence for the priest not only cares for the beginning and end of our spiritual life on earth but maintains it as Christ's instrument administering the Body and Blood of Christ—our spiritual food to maintain this spiritual life.

The bond of association and close cooperation between priest and people is a spiritual not material one. The purpose of the parish is not social. The erection of a Church is not primarily a means for developing architecture, however beautiful and elaborate the edifice might be. It is not the meeting place of a strictly fraternal organization. All of these follow from the real purpose, namely the building raised to the honor and glory of God, the commemoration of His name and the daily practice of our religion which we hold to be undeniably true as we do the Divinity of our Founder, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, true God and true man.



BLESSING AT NUPTIAL MASS



SACRIFICE OF THE MASS (CHRISTMAS EVE 1950)

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Difference of religion and the practice of it has caused great friction among peoples in all parts of the world. Why this should be is difficult to understand. As we consider the different Christian denominations, the other cults throughout the world, none has suffered as the members of the Catholic Church. None has been persecuted as strongly and viciously down through the centuries from the time of Christ's foundation of the Catholic Church. Again, why this should be is difficult to understand.

Not only a religious distinction is made but a national one has been masked in the statement that a Catholic cannot be a good citizen. This is supposedly based upon the fact that a Catholic owes allegiance to his Church primarily. What others fail to note is that the Church to a Catholic is God's instrument here on earth headed by our Holy Father the Pope, the Vicar of Christ.

Strange as it might seem, the men professing the Catholic faith have always served their countries as well as they served their God. That is why we take space in our history to record the names of St. Matthew's parishioners who served their country during World War II.

This Honor Roll is not published in a spirit of boastful patriotism but to show that the combined loyalty to God and country is a basic teaching of the Catholic Church—and this record speaks for itself.

HONOR ROLL

SERVING WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Aigner, John J.	Boylan, James	Burton, William C.
Allen, Howard	Boyle, Donald	Burke, Paul
Berryman, Edward P.	Bradley, James P.	Byrne, Joseph
Bittner, Frank	Brady, James J.	Callahan, John G.
Blake, Francis	*Brady, William, Jr.	Campbell, Patrick J.
Blake, George	Brandt, John J.	Carboy, Lieut. Frances
Blake, Joseph M.	Burns, Edward, Jr.	Carboy, John J.
Blake, Thomas A.	Burns, Francis	Carboy, William
Blanche, Francis	Burns, James V.	Cardamone, John
Borowski, Felix	Burns, Robert	Carlino, John
Borzelleca, Harvey	Burns, Vincent	Carlino, Nicholas V.
*Bosco, Michael, Jr.	Burt, Edward J.	Carr, Joseph W.
Botto, Edward	Burt, John	Carroll, Eugene J.
Botto, George	*Burt, Joseph	*Casey, Thomas J., Jr.
Bowe, Francis	Burt, Leo F.	Casey, William T.
Bowe, James	Burt, Leo	Cassidy, John J.
	Burton, Francis	

*Killed in Action

Cassidy, Joseph	Dougherty, Edward	Hagan, Bernard J.
Ciccanti, Arnold	Dougherty, James J., Jr.	*Hamilton, Paul
Cassidy, John J.	Dougherty, John E.	Hammill, Joseph
Cody, Charles E.	*Duffy, William R.	Hannon, James C.
Collins, Donald		Hanson, Norman
Collins, Gerald	Eckert, Philip	Harrington, Harry, Jr.
Connelly, John	Ehlinger, Joseph A.	Hayes, James
Connelly, Joseph	Eliff, James	Hayes, Joseph
Cook, James G.	Eliff, Joseph	Helbling, Herman
Coyle, Rev. James A.	Elmo, Nicholas	Helenski, Joseph
Coyne, Thomas A.	Entenman, Charles	Hennessey, Leo
Coyne, Thomas M.	Evans, Edward C.	Higgins, Paul R.
Craven, James		Hiland, Donald E.
Craven, Raymond J.	Farrell, Christopher J.	Hoy, Francis
Crawford, John	Ferrill, Gerard	Ianni, Joseph
Cullen, Edward	Fineran, Francis	Irwin, William J.
Cunningham, Edward	Fineran, Edward V.	Ishbrecht, Harry
Curran, Bernard V.	Fineran, Joseph	
Custer, Francis X.	Foley, Francis	Jacobs, Bernard
	Foley, John B.	Jacobs, James M.
Dahm, Hugh J.	Foley, Joseph	John, Norman
Daly, Joseph	Ford, Francis P.	Johnson, John R.
Daly, Philip	Frederick, Charles J.	Johnson, Raymond
Daly, Walter	Frederick, Francis	Johnson, Richard P.
Dawson, James J.	Frederick, John J.	Johnson, Thomas B.
Delaney, Frederick F., Jr.	Freese, John	Jordan, Albert
Delaney, Paul J.	Freese, Richard	Jordan, Joseph
Dennison, John	Fulton, Rose	Jordan, Patrick A.
DeMarco, Ralph		Jordan, William
Dempsey, Francis M.	Gallagher, Hugh J.	
Desimone, Cornelius A.	Gaynor, Elizabeth	Kasopsky, John
Desimone, Joseph A.	Gaynor, Margaret	Kasopsky, John A.
*Desimone, Joseph	Gavin, James E.	Kearney, Kathleen
Devaney, John J.	Gavin, John M.	Kearney, William
DiGiacomo, Louis	Gavin, William J., Jr.	Keefe, John
Dobbin, George	Giera, Joseph	Keeley, James J.
Dobbin, John R.	Giera, Walter	Kehoe, Gerald
Donovan, Andrews	Gillespie, Edward	Kelly, Charles
Donovan, Donald	Glaser, Charles	Kelly, Edward
Donovan, George T.	Gordan, James	Kelly, Gerard
Donovan, James	Gordon, William	Kelly, James J., Jr.
Donovan, James	Greenday, James J.	Kelly, James P.
Donovan, Paul E.	Gross, John F.	
Donovan, William	Gross, Joseph J.	

*Killed in Action

Kelly, John
 Kelly, John J.
 Kelly, John, Jr.
 Kelly, Joseph
 Kelly, Joseph
 Kelly, Joseph F.
 Kelly, William P., Jr.
 Kenna, Joseph A.
 Kennedy, Joseph
 King, John
 Kiniry, Rev. John P.
 Kusek, Luke

Labowski, Dr. P.J.
 LaCoste, Lawrence T.
 LaCoste, Wallace H.
 Lare, James
 Larkin, Maurice
 Lavan, James T., Jr.
 Lawler, Edward
 Lawler, John
 Lawler, Joseph
 Lawler, Joseph W.
 Lawler, William, Jr.
 Leary, Dr. Joseph
 Leddy, Robert
 Lincul, Adam Francis
 Logan, Daniel
 Logan, Joseph
 Lord, Alfred
 Lucey, Kenneth F.
 Luskin, Charles
 Luskin, Robert

McArdle, Raymond
 McAvoy, James
 McCall, Edward
 McCann, James P.
 McCann, John
 McCann, William P.
 McCauley, Robert W.
 McCrenzi, Stephen J.
 *McCrudden, William J.
 McDonnell, James J.
 McDonnell, John

McEvoy, James P.
 McFadden, Francis
 McGann, Joseph
 McGovern, John
 McGovern, William T.
 McGrath, Edwin F.
 McGuigan, Francis
 McGuigan, John
 McGuigan, Joseph J.
 McKeon, Paul
 McLaughlin, James J.
 McLaughlin, Joseph
 McLaughlin, Lieut. Pat. H.
 McLaughlin, Lieut. W. L.
 McMahon, James
 McMonagle, George J.
 McMullen, John
 McMullen, Lawrence
 McNamara, John J.
 McNamara, Robert T.
 McNealis, Charles
 McQuillan, John F., Jr.

Mack, Frank X.
 Mack, John R.
 Maher, Charles
 Marks, James H.
 Marwood, John
 Mattson, Richard
 Mellon, Edmond C.
 Mellon, James
 Mellon, John
 Mellon, William
 Messmer, Francis J.
 Meszaros, Albert
 Meszaros, Albert P.
 Meszaros, Joseph
 *Meyers, Edward J.
 *Meyers, Francis, Jr.
 Meyers, John E.
 *Moksimowicz, Peter
 Monacella, Thomas F.
 Montemever, Joseph E.
 Moore, Edward F., Jr.
 Moore, Michael

Moran, Francis
 Moran, John
 Moran, Joseph F.
 Moran, Michael J.
 *Moran, Thomas
 Moran, William J.
 Moran, William, Jr.
 Moriarity, Charles
 Moser, Aloysius
 Moser, Edward
 Moser, Elizabeth
 Moser, William P.
 Mullen, John
 Mullen, Joseph J.
 Mundy, Richard H.
 Murphy, Arthur J., Jr.
 Murphy, Francis
 Murphy, James J.
 Murphy, James
 Murphy, Joseph A.
 Murphy, Vincent
 Murphy, William H.
 Murphy, William H.

Nagle, George D.
 Nalborski, Carl
 Nardi, Marie
 Nase, Francis
 Nellany, James
 Nellany, Joseph
 *Nyce, George F.

Ochnich, John
 Ochnich, Michael
 *O'Connor, John F.
 O'Donnell, Bernard
 O'Donnell, Daniel F.
 O'Donnell, Hugh, Jr.
 O'Donnell, John E.
 O'Malley, William
 O'Neill, Francis X.
 O'Neill, Henry
 O'Neill, James
 O'Neill, John E.
 O'Neill, John J.

O'Neill, Thomas
 O'Neill, William, Jr.
 O'Rourke, William

Paul, John
 Pearce, John H.
 Pearson, John F.
 Peiffer, Donald
 Peska, Constance
 Peszka, Stephen
 Pettine, John
 Phipps, Edward
 Pickel, Elwood J., Jr.
 *Piermani, Dominic
 Pole, John Herbert
 Pollard, Harry
 Powers, Paul
 Powers, Thomas D.
 Poysden, Alfred
 Psczulkowski, Walter

Quinn, Charles E.
 Quinn, Eugene F., Jr.

Rafferty, John C.
 Rafferty, Joseph P.
 Raymond, William
 Reilly, John, Jr.
 Reilly, Joseph V.
 Reilly, William, Jr.
 Rinker, Joseph L.
 Roberts, James
 Rogers, Patrick J.
 Ronnan, Edward A.
 Ronnan, James P.
 Ronnan, Joseph A.
 Ronnan, Robert
 Ronnan, William
 Ronnan, William J.
 Rorick, James, Jr.

Rowe, Joseph T.
 Rowe, Robert
 Ruggiero, Dominic A.
 Ruggiero, Francis J.
 Ruser, Jacob J., Jr.
 Ryan, Anne Marie
 Ryan, James M.
 Ryan, Thomas A.

Salvia, Samuel J.
 Saxon, Robert J.
 Schaffer, James
 Schaffer, Joseph
 Schaffer, Warren
 Schank, Harry J.
 Schank, John
 Schank, Walter E., Jr.
 Scharff, John
 Scharff, Joseph
 Scharff, William L.
 Schimpf, Francis
 Schimpf, Joseph
 Schneider, Leo
 Shimer, Benj., Jr.
 Shinnors, Richard Philip
 *Sigg, Richard G.

Smith, John E.
 Sponar, Leo
 Sponar, Louis M.
 Stackhouse, Charles
 Stackhouse, William A.
 Stackhouse, Wm. A., Jr.
 Stemple, James
 Stemporosky, Joseph
 Stone, Raymond F.
 Swan, Robert C.
 Swift, Edward

Talone, James
 Talone, Leonard

Talone, Leonard A.
 Thomas, Joseph
 Thomas, Stanley
 Thompson, Daniel
 Timer, John
 Timer, Veronica
 Tole, Robert
 Tryson, Frank
 Tryson, Joseph
 Tryson, Leon
 Turnbull, William
 Turner, John A.

Urban, Edward

Wertz, James J.
 Wesley, Edward
 Wesley, John
 Wesley, Robert T.
 Wethey, William
 Williams, John H.
 Wilson, George
 Woodland, Eugene
 Waters, David W.
 Watson, James E., Jr.
 Webb, J. Carlin
 Webb, John B.
 Webb, Joseph C.
 Weber, Vincent
 Wertz, Francis P.
 *Wertz, Harry
 Vandegrift, John F.
 Vogt, Lieut. Elizabeth
 Volz, James

Wagner, Chris
 Walsh, James F.
 Wannop, Raymond
 Waters, Daniel

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LOCAL PARISHES

You have read the historical background of St. Matthew's Parish, how the people of Conshohocken were members of St. Patrick's, Norristown and how St. Patrick's was a growth from St. John's in Manayunk.

St. Matthew's eventually became the mother parish of the Conshohocken area. Father Kinahan saw the need of a mission in West Conshohocken as Father Nugent did in Conshohocken. Father Kinahan took steps to establish a mission across the Schuylkill. He purchased property originally where the approaches to the Pennsylvania Turnpike are now. Later, the present property was acquired and a parish was established under the patronage of St. Gertrude in the year 1888.

As persecution and privation and the hope of new life forced Western Europeans to look towards America in earlier years, the same took place in Central Europe. The Polish people, whose country had been partitioned and exploited by surrounding countries, were tired of such conditions and ventured westward. Early settlers of Polish ancestry came as early as 1888. St. Matthew's Parish records show. As the population increased, the need of another Church was realized. In 1905 the dream of the Polish people was fulfilled.

Today, we see the flourishing Parish of St. Mary's with a parochial school and a beautiful new church—a credit to the Polish people and the steadfast faith of their ancestors, who, like the Irish people, once they accepted Christianity never lost it regardless of how much they were called upon to suffer for the practice of their faith.

The quest for opportunities which were at a minimum in Italy caused a migration to other lands, and America beckoned the Italian people to its shores and freedom. With an innate desire to establish homes and give their children a different outlook on life, many sons of Italy made sacrifices to reach America. They brought with them the knowledge, skill and strength to work with stone and aid in the composite building of America. The building of railroads brought the first Italians to Conshohocken. They, as the Polish, were handicapped by the difficulty of language, but they overcame this obstacle and in every way made themselves good citizens of the land of their adoption. At the corner of Fifth Avenue and Maple Streets, a modest stone church was erected under the patronage of Sts. Cosmos and Damian, and this has barely sufficed the needs of the people. A fortnight ago ground was broken for the erection of a more spacious and more modern edifice. As the walls and spires of this new church rise heavenward we have further striking proof of the deep and abiding faith of a people richly endowed.

A church was constructed and now plans for a larger and more beautiful place to worship God will soon be realized.

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